

Security/Entering the NIH Campus

Entering the NIH campus is now more time-consuming than it once was, due to the heightened security measures that have been instituted. Meeting participants traveling to the NIH campus are urged to use the red line of the Metro (subway) system. While driving to the NIH campus is discouraged, information on doing so is provided below.

Arriving by Metro: You should allow twenty to thirty minutes after exiting the Red Line's Medical Center Metro station to go through the temporary visitors' center (marked NIH Gateway Center), to walk to the Natcher Building (AKA, building 45) and to get situated for the meeting. Visitors will be asked to show one form of identification (a government-issued photo ID driver's license, passport, green card, etc.) and to state the purpose of their visit. General information for NIH visitors concerning security is found at <http://www.nih.gov/about/visitorsecurity.htm>

Instructions: From the Metro Station follow the signs that read "NIH Entry" to the NIH Gateway Center, where you will be screened and get a visitor's identification badge (to be worn while on campus). To get to the Natcher Building from the Gateway Center, you should follow the sidewalk at the side of the Center, going behind the Center, and then through a parking lot to the top of the hill. There you will see the Natcher Building, a large white stone and green glass building. Walk to the far left side of the building and use the double doors there to enter the Natcher Conference Center; steps leading down to the meeting rooms will be on your left. A map for this area of the NIH campus is found at http://dtts.ors.od.nih.gov/gateway_map.htm

Arriving by car: Visitor parking at NIH can be very difficult, as there are very few visitor parking spaces. Given this reality and since the Natcher Conference Center is only a short walk from the Medical Center Metro station, driving to this meeting is strongly discouraged. If you must drive and you do not have an NIH photo ID badge or an NIH parking permit, you should enter the campus at the Rockville Pike and South Drive entrance. Please allow adequate time to pass through security checkpoints. The Natcher Building is located at 45 Center Drive and is across from the National Library of Medicine.

An alternative to parking at NIH is driving to Bethesda and parking in a public lot. From Bethesda, you can either take the Metro at the Bethesda station (located at East West Highway and Wisconsin Avenue) to the Medical Center station. You may also drive to and park at other Metro stops on the Red Line that have public parking and take the Metro to the Medical Center station.

NIH visitor information is available at www.nih.gov/about/visitor/index.htm.