he National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) recognizes the incredible potential of microbial genomic research and has made a significant investment in the large-scale sequencing of the genomes of human pathogens, including microorganisms considered agents of bioterrorism. Over the last five years, NIAID has supported the sequencing of many genomes of pathogenic microorganisms, including those that are considered potential agents of bioterrorism and causing emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

The Microbial Genome Sequencing Centers address the Institute's need for additional sequencing of microorganisms and invertebrate vectors of disease. The Microbial

Genome Sequencing Centers provide rapid and cost-efficient resources for production high-guality, microbial of genome sequences. Genomes that can be sequenced through these resources include microorganisms considered agents of bioterrorism (NIAID Category A, B, and C Priority Pathogens), related organisms, clinical isolates, closely related species, and invertebrate vectors of disease and microorganisms responsible for emerging and reemerging infectious diseases. Two large-scale genome sequencing centers have been established with demonstrated ability to rapidly and cost-effectively sequence genomic DNA, thus providing a valuable resource for the research community.

To request DNA sequencing of an organism or to obtain more about NIAID's information Microbial Genome Sequencing Centers, please visit the website at www.niaid.nih.gov/dmid/geno mes/mscs/. For more information about other NIAID biodefense research resources, please go to www.niaid.nih.gov/biodefense.

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