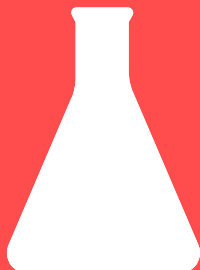


# *Introduction*



*Research Laboratory  
NIH Design Policy and Guidelines*

The NIH Research Laboratory Design Policy and Guidelines describes in general and specific terms the minimum requirements for the planning and design of facilities that primarily house biomedical research laboratories.

## **A.1 Mission Statement**

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the principal biomedical research agency of the Federal Government. The NIH conducts, supports, and promotes research to improve the health of the American people. The NIH's mission is to increase the understanding of the processes that underlie human health, disability, and disease; advancing knowledge concerning the health effects of interactions between humans and the environment; to develop methods of predicting, detecting, diagnosing and treating disease; and to distribute research results for critical review and ultimately for medical application.

The relationship of laboratories to patient care is an integral part of the mission of the NIH. Laboratory and patient facilities must be distinct and separate building zones to satisfy systems, security, patient care, and materials management needs yet provide the proximity required for effective research. Guidelines for spaces needed to support patient care are detailed in the Clinical Center Design Policy and Guidelines.

NIH laboratory buildings house laboratory, laboratory support, office, administrative, and animal space. The relationship of laboratories to animal facilities also demands careful consideration. Guidelines for space used to support animal research are detailed in the Vivarium Design Policy and Guidelines.

## **A.2 User Input**

The ultimate users, especially the researchers, must be consulted during the development of Programs of Requirements and the design phases to truly meet the needs of the NIH. Users' input will be incorporated wherever possible and applicable in the project.

