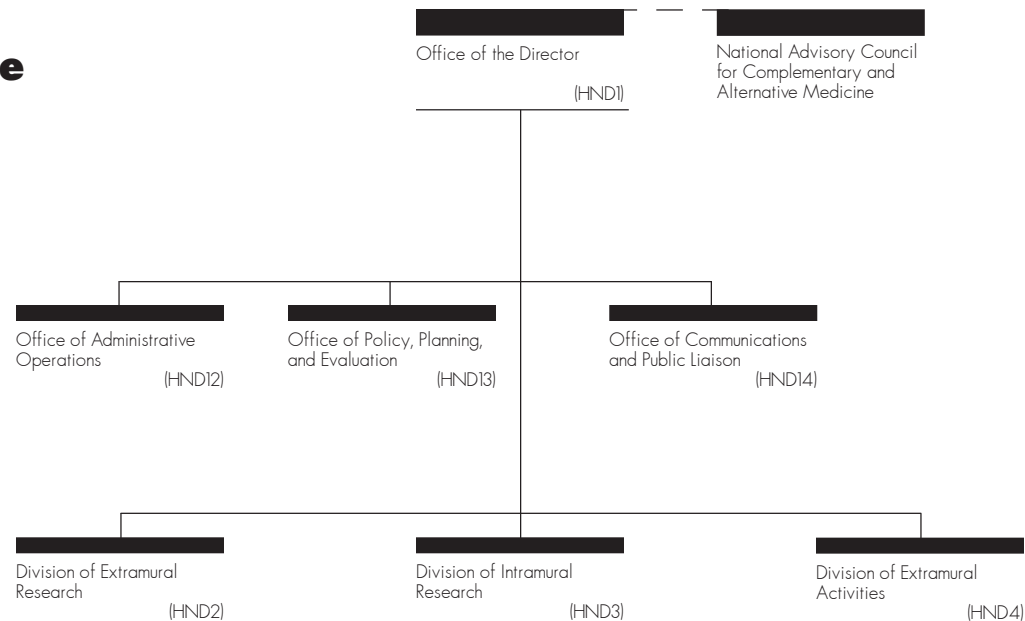


National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine



- Studies the integration of alternative treatment, diagnostic and prevention systems, modalities, and disciplines with the practice of conventional medicine and as a complement to such medicine and the integration of such alternatives into health care delivery systems in the United States;
- Ensures that scientists with appropriate expertise in research on complementary and alternative medicine are incorporated into the review, oversight, and management processes of all research projects and other activities funded by the Center;
- Coordinates efforts with other Institutes and Federal agencies to ensure appropriate scientific input and management;
- Identifies and evaluates alternative and complementary medical treatment, diagnostic and prevention modalities in each of the disciplines and systems with which the Center is concerned, including each discipline and system in which accreditation, national certification, or a State license is available;
- Conducts or supports the following activities: outcomes research and investigations, epidemiological studies, health services research, basic science research, clinical trials, and other appropriate research and investigational activities;
- Assists the NIH Director in designating specific personnel in each Institute to serve as full-time liaisons with the Center in facilitating appropriate coordination and scientific input;
- Establishes, updates, and makes publicly accessible a bibliographic system for the collection, storage, and retrieval of worldwide research relating to complementary and alternative treatment, diagnostic and prevention modalities, disciplines and systems;
- Establishes an information clearinghouse to facilitate and enhance, through the effective dissemination of information, knowledge and understanding of alternative medical treatment, diagnostic and prevention practices by health professionals, patients, industry, and the public; and
- Supports the development and operation of multipurpose centers to conduct research and other activities with respect to complementary and alternative treatment, diagnostic and prevention modalities, disciplines and systems; the provision of support for the development and operation of such centers shall include accredited complementary and alternative medicine research and education facilities.

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