

Council of Public Representatives

www.copr.nih.gov



Who We Are

As members of the Council of Public Representatives (COPR), we serve the NIH Director. We represent a wide range of cultural, geographic, and professional backgrounds and perspectives, and we share a deep interest in public health and a commitment to the public's views and needs. The COPR is the formal mechanism at NIH for public input into the research decision-making and priority-setting process. The Council advises the Director on issues of importance for the broad development of NIH programs. The COPR is one of two external advisory committees chaired by the NIH Director.

What We Do

The COPR facilitates dynamic and interactive communications between NIH and the public by

- Serving as the public's voice on issues relating to NIH's mission;
- Informing the public of the research and health benefits gained through the public's investment in NIH; and
- Helping NIH understand the public perspective and engage the public in NIH activities.

Our Activities

We meet twice a year in public session to discuss topics identified by the Director and by COPR members. At the request of the NIH Director and the Directors of the Institutes and Centers, we also sit on NIH committees, including review committees for strategic planning, current research issues, health education campaigns and outreach efforts. COPR members work on special trans-NIH issues, such as building public trust in clinical research and enhancing public input and transparency in the NIH research priority-setting process.

The Council reports to the Director in a variety of ways, depending upon the topic. In serving as the NIH voice to the public, we give presentations at various events, including professional meetings, nonprofit organization forums, local town hall and chamber of commerce meetings, and health fairs. We use these opportunities to seek additional input.



Our Mission:

We work to bring the public voice to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and take NIH's messages to the public.



How We Are Selected

NIH selects COPR members through an annual, open application process, with the advice of external and internal reviewers. Ideal candidates demonstrate a commitment to public health, represent a wide range of individuals, and communicate regularly with the public. In serving on the COPR, we agree to a four-year term and to represent the interests of the public at-large putting aside our individual affiliations and personal interests. Candidates may self-nominate or be nominated by another individual or group. All candidates are invited to join the COPR Associates program. This program is designed to provide interested members of the public with the latest news from NIH. The program also serves as an outside "resource pool" for NIH Institutes and Centers interested in getting the public's perspective or in bringing their programs to the public. For information on the application process, go to <http://copr.nih.gov/application.asp>.

Our History

The Institute of Medicine, an independent organization that advises the U.S. Congress on health issues, issued a 1998 report calling on NIH to form a Council of Public Representatives. As outlined in the report, *Scientific Opportunities and Public Needs*, the COPR was charged to facilitate interactions on research and other subjects between NIH and the public. For more information, go to <http://copr.nih.gov/history.asp>.

Our Contributions

We have been active on many levels both at NIH and within our states. Highlights of these contributions include publishing an editorial on public participation in biomedical/behavioral research in the *Hawaii Medical Journal*; serving on the NIH Public Review Working Group for the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives to evaluate a new research categorization tool; participating in meetings on NIH Peer Review Enhancement and Roadmap for Medical Research; hosting an interview with the NIH Director on a segment of CNBC's *dLife*; giving an interview on the COPR's role to a local National Public Radio station in Milwaukee; serving on the National Library of Medicine's Board of Regents Subcommittee on Outreach and Public Liaison; producing an interview with the NIH Director and internationally recognized reporter Charles Osgood on NIH and scientific breakthroughs; and cosponsoring the workshop *Inviting Public Participation in Clinical Research: Building Trust through Partnerships*.

Learn More on How NIH Brings Health and Science to the Public

Go to <http://www.nih.gov/icd/od/ocpl/resources/healthandsciencetothepublic.htm>.



COPR Members and Alumni

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* Current Members

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
National Institutes of Health

The Nation's Medical Research Agency

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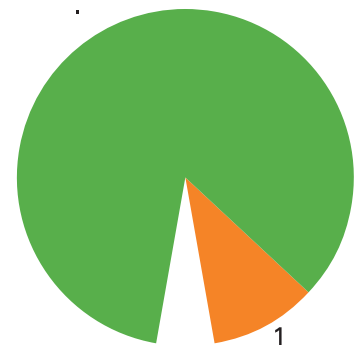
NIH is Truly *Your* NIH

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the nation's medical research agency and is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Twenty-seven Institutes and Centers make up NIH. These Institutes and Centers focus on specific diseases or areas of research. They also collaborate on matters that reach across their mission areas.

Each year, some 325,000 NIH-supported scientists and staff in the United States and its territories, and more than 90 nations worldwide, conduct research at more than 3,000 extramural research centers. On the NIH campuses, another 6,000 scientists are working in unique teams to solve complex medical problems.

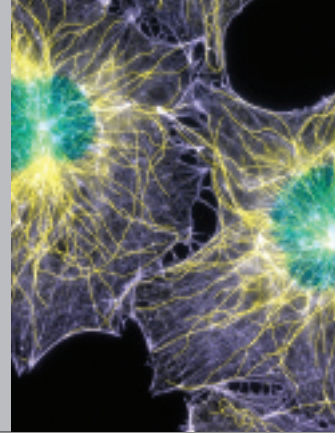
NIH Budget in FY 2008: \$29.4 Billion

- \$24.8 billion,
Spending outside NIH *
- \$3.1 billion,
10,000 intramural scientists
and research personnel
- \$1.6 billion,
Administrative costs



* Includes the Common Fund and the National Children's Study from the Office of the Director.





Your NIH



We want the public to be involved in our work. Public engagement and outreach activities are key to earning public trust in the biomedical and behavioral research enterprise.

Each year, thousands of individuals contribute their time, expertise, and perspectives through public engagement activities, such as town hall meetings and teleconferences, and by offering input and opinions through formal responses to requests, through our information channels, or to the NIH Director in response to the NIH Director's newsletter.

Others participate in an advisory capacity by serving on peer-review committees, program management panels, and advisory councils, such as the Director's Council of Public Representatives. By working with you, we gain the public's perspectives on important matters in research and scientific administration.

Your tax dollars support NIH in conducting biomedical research and training and the dissemination of science-based health information. Our goal is to uncover new knowledge that will help prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat disease and disability. Your investment is returning dividends in longer and healthier lives for Americans and others around the world. We are working toward a new approach to the future of medicine that is preemptive, predictive, personalized, and participatory.

Engaging the public is a national priority, it is not an option.

NIH in Your Community

Communicating science-based health information gained through its research is one of the agency's top priorities. NIH Institutes and Centers bring health and education programs to your community through a variety of campaigns and products. A sample of ongoing and recently launched NIH health and education programs include:



WE CAN! (Ways to Enhance Children's Activity and Nutrition) helps children 8–13 years old maintain a healthy weight.



Know Stroke: Know the Signs. Act in Time. raises awareness of the symptoms of stroke and the need to get medical help immediately to limit damaging effects.



Back to Sleep recommends placing healthy babies on their backs to sleep to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.



NIH SeniorHealth.gov helps seniors find popular health topics using web strategies shown to be helpful to seniors.



Milk Matters promotes calcium consumption among tweens and teens for lifelong health.



NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices



The Heart Truth™ Red Dress Project reminds women of the need to protect their heart health and motivates them to take action.



WISE EARS! raises awareness to help people prevent noise-induced hearing loss.



Science Education Partnership Awards provides funding to schools, science museums, and community organizations for projects that increase scientific knowledge in youth.



NIH Curriculum Supplements combine cutting-edge science research discoveries from NIH with state-of-the-art instructional materials.

Get Involved at NIH

Participate in your NIH. Find out how you can get involved in NIH activities at <http://getinvolved.nih.gov>.

Get NIH Health Information

For health information, visit <http://health.nih.gov>.

Institutes

National Cancer Institute (NCI)
 National Eye Institute (NEI)
 National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)
 National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)
 National Institute on Aging (NIA)
 National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)
 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID)
 National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)
 National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB)
 Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD)
 National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD)
 National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NIDCR)
 National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)
 National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
 National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)
 National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)
 National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)
 National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)
 National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)
 National Library of Medicine (NLM)

Centers

Center for Information Technology (CIT)
 Center for Scientific Review (CSR)
 John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences (FIC)
 National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM)
 National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)
 National Center for Research Resources (NCRR)
 NIH Clinical Center (CC)

Offices

Office of the Director Program Offices:
 Office of Research on Women's Health
 Office of AIDS Research
 Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
 Office of Disease Prevention

