



NIEHS

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

National Institutes of Health • U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Your Environment. Your Health.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

NIEHS is located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Director

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., is the director of the NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program (NTP). She is the first toxicologist to head an NIH institute.

Mission

NIEHS – Research to discover how the environment influences human health.

NTP – Tests and evaluates chemicals in our environment.

NIEHS Research at Work

Protecting family health

- Funding 12 [Children's Environmental Health Research Centers](#) to help ensure that all children live in a safe and healthy environment.
- Leading the study on potential health effects from the [Gulf oil spill](#), while providing health and safety training to cleanup workers.
- Supporting two major breast cancer efforts. [The Sister Study](#) is searching for environmental causes of breast cancer. A network of scientists and community partners in the [Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program](#) is working to identify breast cancer risks at key stages of life. This program is co-funded by NIEHS and the National Cancer Institute.
- NTP and NIEHS are funding researchers to study [bisphenol A and other endocrine-disrupting chemicals](#), especially how they impact young children.

"The NIEHS is the premier environmental health research institution in the world dedicated to preventing diseases."

– Linda Birnbaum

- NTP studies will help determine if **cell phones** have health risks. Results expected in 2014.
- Investigating if adult diseases such as obesity, diabetes, infertility, and some cancers are linked to chemical exposures **during early life development**.
- Researching disorders such as **autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder** to understand if there is a link to the environment.

Engaging communities

- NIEHS **Superfund Research Programs** are working to reduce or eliminate the negative impacts on communities from hazardous waste sites.
- **NIEHS Partnerships for Environmental Public Health (PEPH)** brings communities and scientists together.
- The **Clinical Research Unit** hosts collaborative research between NIEHS and local North Carolina universities that moves laboratory science into disease prevention and treatment.
- Questioning how **global climate change** may affect human health.

Supporting new science

- Developing **new technologies** to measure environmental exposures, diet physical activities, psychosocial stress, and other factors that contribute to disease.
- Collaborations between NIEHS/NTP, National Institute of Health Chemical Genomics Center (NCGC), EPA and FDA are leading to more **efficient chemical testing**.
- Because people are exposed to many chemicals simultaneously, NIEHS is studying the health risks of **chemical mixtures**.
- NIEHS and NTP are promoting **green chemistry** to identify safe, new alternative products.
- Researching the health effects of **engineered nanomaterials**.

Monthly Publications

Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by NIEHS. www.ehponline.org

The Environmental Factor is the NIEHS newsletter available online or by e-mail. www.niehs.nih.gov/factor

www.niehs.nih.gov

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