

# Tobacco Control Research Branch

## Overview

One-third of cancer deaths in the United States are caused by smoking. Yet approximately 20% of American adults still smoke and more than 4,000 adolescents smoke their first cigarette each day. The Tobacco Control Research Branch (TCRB) works toward a world free of tobacco use and related cancer and suffering.

Research to prevent and control tobacco use and tobacco-related cancers is a public health priority of the National Cancer Institute. The TCRB leads and collaborates on research, and disseminates evidence-based findings to prevent, treat, and control tobacco use. Branch activities include: funding research grants and contracts, sponsoring conferences and symposia, and disseminating tobacco control science. Additionally, branch scientists conduct research and participate in diverse scientific and programmatic activities in support of national and international tobacco control efforts.

## Research Funding

The TCRB supports research through a variety of NIH funding mechanisms. Most grants are investigator-initiated and are not submitted in response to any particular announcement. Examples of research topic areas in the Branch's portfolio include:

Cessation	State & Community Policy & Interventions
Ethics	Systems Science
Health Disparities	Tobacco Industry Documents
International Research on Tobacco Use	Tobacco Networks
Light and Intermittent Smokers (LITS)	Tobacco Products
Prevention	Transdisciplinary Tobacco Research
Secondhand Smoke	Women and Tobacco
Smokeless Tobacco	Youth and Young Adults

The following major research initiatives are funded through the TCRB.

*Improving Effectiveness of Smoking Cessation Interventions and Programs in Low-Income Adult Populations* (Request For Applications) – Designed to facilitate a significant reduction in smoking prevalence among low-income adults by improving outcomes of smoking cessation in low-income U.S. adult populations.

*Smokeless Tobacco Use, Prevention, and Cessation* (Request For Applications) – Studies the factors that mediate initiation, use, and cessation of smokeless tobacco, to understand the relationship of smokeless tobacco to other tobacco products, and to develop methods for studying smokeless tobacco products and related behaviors in humans.

*Testing Tobacco Products Promoted to Reduce Harm* (Program Announcement) – Stimulates research on the chemical composition, behavior of use, exposure to toxic agents, addictive properties, differential toxicity, and the public health impact of potential reduced-exposure tobacco products.

*Laboratory Assessment of Tobacco Use Behavior and Exposure to Toxins Among Users of New Tobacco Products Promoted to Reduce Harm* (Research & Development Contract) – The purpose of this five-year contract, awarded in 2006 to Georgetown University, is to advance scientific knowledge about the toxic and addictive properties of tobacco products marketed by the tobacco industry with claims that imply reduced harm. This contract will support research to study the chemical and physical properties of different tobacco products, characterize the ways in which people's behavior affects their exposure to tobacco toxins, and develop methods and biomarkers to measure exposure and risk for tobacco-related diseases.

*NCI- NIDA Collaboration* (Program Announcement). A joint announcement was released in December 2007 titled "NIDA Research Center of Excellence Grant Program." NCI contributes to this program to support interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research in tobacco use and nicotine addiction.

Funding opportunities, including program announcements and career development awards, are available at <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/funding.html>.

<http://tobaccocontrol.cancer.gov>

## Selected Initiatives and Projects

### QUIT-NOW

#### *1-800-QUIT-NOW, National Network of Tobacco Cessation Quitlines*

The National Network of Tobacco Cessation Quitlines is a state/Federal partnership that provides tobacco users in every state with access to the tools and resources they need to quit smoking, ensuring the highest level of assistance to tobacco users who want to quit. The toll-free number serves as a single point of access to state-based quitlines.



#### *Smokefree.gov*

The [Smokefree.gov](http://Smokefree.gov) Web site offers a variety of tools designed to help people quit smoking. Site features include an online step-by-step cessation guide, phone numbers for telephone support, instant messaging with NCI counselors, an interactive map listing cessation studies that recruit smokers, and self-help materials to download or order. Smokefree.gov was developed by NCI, with assistance from CDC. The site and all resources are free to the public

### Smoke-free Meetings

[meetings.smokefree.gov](http://meetings.smokefree.gov)

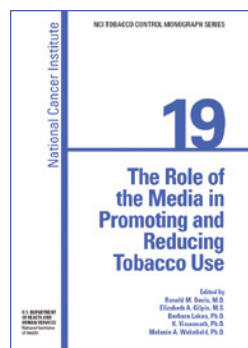
#### *Smoke-Free Meetings*

On January 1, 2007, NCI implemented a smoke-free meetings policy requiring that all meetings and conferences organized or primarily sponsored by NCI be held in a state, county, city, or town that has adopted a comprehensive smoke-free policy. The goal of the policy is to recognize those jurisdictions that have chosen to protect the public from secondhand smoke. NCI has produced an interactive website to facilitate selection of smoke-free meeting locations, which is now available to the public at: <http://meetings.smokefree.gov/>.



#### *Tobacco Research Network on Disparities (TReND)*

In partnership with the American Legacy Foundation, TCRB created a network of researchers to generate scientific evidence towards reducing tobacco-related health disparities. TReND works to understand and address tobacco-related health disparities by advancing the science, translating science into practice, and informing public policy.



#### *Tobacco Control Monograph Series*

The Tobacco Control Monograph Series provides ongoing and timely information about emerging public health issues in smoking and tobacco control. Recent monographs include *The Role of the Media in Promoting and Reducing Tobacco Use* (August 2008), *Greater Than the Sum: Systems Thinking in Tobacco Control* (May 2007), and *Evaluating ASSIST: A Blueprint for Understanding State-level Tobacco Control* (October 2006). Monographs 1-19 are available online to download and order copies free of charge.

#### *Collaborations with the World Health Organization (WHO)*

TCRB scientists regularly participate in WHO sponsored activities, including those of the Study Group for Tobacco Regulation and the Tobacco Laboratory Network. TCRB scientists have also collaborated with the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to help produce several IARC monographs on tobacco.

## For More Information

To learn more about initiatives, funding opportunities, and other tobacco control resources, visit the TCRB website, <http://tobaccocontrol.cancer.gov>

For assistance in quitting smoking, visit [www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov) or call **1-800-QUIT-NOW** (1-800-784-8669).

Behavioral Research  
Program



Division of  
Cancer Control and  
Population Sciences  
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Tobacco Control Research Branch, NCI  
6130 Executive Blvd., Suite 4039B  
Bethesda, MD 20892-7337