

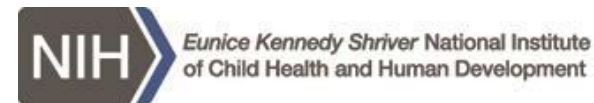
NICHD DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Alan E. Guttmacher, M.D.

**National Advisory Child Health and Human
Development Council**

June 5, 2014



In Memoriam



- ◆ Dr. Robert E. Cooke (1920-2014) was a driving force behind the founding of NICHD
- ◆ He also served as a member of Council, the NICHD Intramural program's Board of Scientific Councilors, and the Advisory Board for the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research
- ◆ Video interview available at <http://youtu.be/V5UrUkHFoaw>

What's To Come



- ◆ News from NIH
- ◆ News from NICHD
- ◆ Legislative Updates
- ◆ Discussion

News from NIH



Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity

- ◆ **Hannah Valantine, M.D.**, named as the first Chief Officer for Scientific Workforce Diversity, Office of the Director
- ◆ Dr. Valantine comes to NIH from Stanford, where she was Senior Associate Dean for Diversity and Leadership, and Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine



Acting Director for NIMHD



- ◆ **Yvonne T. Maddox, Ph.D.,** became the Acting Director of the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) on April 1st



Porter Building Dedication



- ◆ March 31st symposium and dedication to celebrate completion of the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center
- ◆ The building brings together neuroscientists from 10 institutes and centers across the NIH
- ◆ A number of NICHD intramural researchers are already in the building



New Resubmission Policy



New Resubmission Policy



- ◆ Applicants will be allowed to resubmit any application as an A0 (new original application) after an unsuccessful A1 - without NIH assessing the similarity of the science to the previous applications
- ◆ Policy is now in place

Enhancing Reproducibility and Transparency of Research Findings



NIH plans to enhance reproducibility

Francis S. Collins and **Lawrence A. Tabak** discuss initiatives that the US National Institutes of Health is exploring to restore the self-correcting nature of preclinical research.

A growing chorus of concern, from scientists and laypeople, contends that the complex system for ensuring the reproducibility of biomedical research is failing and is in need of restructuring¹². As leaders of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), we share this concern and here explore some of the significant interventions that we are planning.

Science has long been regarded as 'self-correcting': given that it is founded on the replication of prior work. Over the long term, that principle remains true. In the

shorter term, however, it does not balance that on one side the ability of today's researchers to replicate others' findings.

Let's be clear: we have no evidence that reproducibility is about to collapse. In 2011, the Office of the US Department of Health and Human Services pursued a strategy to address the problem. Even if this represents the actual problem

"Efforts by the NIH alone will not be sufficient to effect real change but it is the health system."

Feedback on Commentary



- ◆ Range of respondents: Investigators, reagent suppliers, professional associations, industry
- ◆ Reaction mostly supportive
- ◆ Ideas/materials shared:
 - Dedicated funding for replication studies
 - Additional literature on reproducibility issues (books, publications)

Stakeholder Engagement



- ◆ Many meetings already conducted or scheduled with groups and individuals
- ◆ Possible workshop including journal editors, professional societies, and funders (public and private)
 - In discussions with *Nature* and *Science* re options
- ◆ Envision separate workshops for industry and for reagent suppliers

Enhancing the NIH Biosketch



The Challenge



- ◆ Past performance is an essential review element
 - Often an important indicator of future success
 - Current biosketch does not always provide an accurate assessment of applicant
 - Overreliance on impact of journals published in (e.g., one-word journals/“**CNS disease**”)
 - Often worsened by reviewer behaviors (e.g., failure to read cited work, under-appreciation of team science)
- ◆ NIH seeks an approach to better emphasize the applicant’s actual contribution instead of the applicant’s academic and research pedigree

Changes to Biosketch



- ◆ Replace “**15** peer-reviewed publications” with narratives describing up to 5 of **applicant’s** most significant contributions
- ◆ Narratives would include background info, major findings and impact of work, and role of applicant
- ◆ A few RFAs will use the new biosketch format this summer to help develop optimal instructions
- ◆ The biosketch will be launched this fall; all applications for FY 2016 funding (those submitted Jan 2015 onward) will use it

Sex Differences in Pre-Clinical Studies



Sex Differences in Pre-Clinical Studies

- ◆ May 15, 2014 *Nature* article by Francis Collins and Janine Clayton discussed ways that NIH will address sex differences in research
- ◆ NIH will develop new policies to expand the consideration of sex differences in research studies using animal models and cells
- ◆ The policies will roll out in phases beginning in October 2014 and will include changes in program oversight and review and training on experimental design for staff, trainees, and grantees

News from NICHD



NICHD Deputy Director Search



- ◆ The Deputy Director announcement closed in March, and the search is well underway
- ◆ Likely to have a new Deputy Director in place by early fall
- ◆ NICHD will function without a Deputy Director during what we hope is only a few month interregnum

NCMRR Director Search



- ◆ The announcement for the Director of the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research closed on June 1st
- ◆ A key NICHD leadership position involving the management of NCMRR scientific, policy, and administrative matters

New Appointments



- ◆ **Robert Tamburro MD** joins the Pediatric Trauma and Critical Illness Branch as medical officer
- ◆ Collaborative Pediatric Critical Care Research Network (CPCCRN)
- ◆ He comes from Pennsylvania State University's Milton Hershey School of Medicine where he served as Associate Professor of Pediatrics

New Appointments

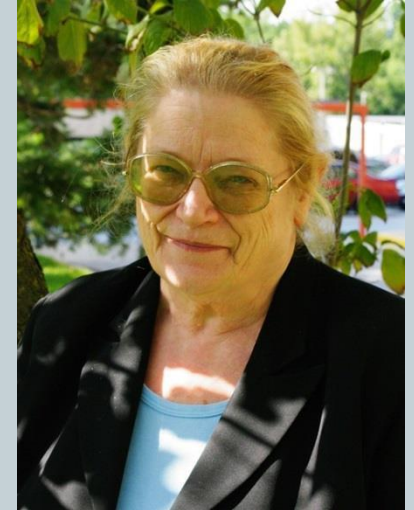


- ◆ **Lisa M. Halvorson** has been selected as Chief of the Gynecologic Health and Disease Branch, effective June 15, 2014
- ◆ She comes to NICHD from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas Texas, where she is a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Retirement



- ◆ **Mary Lou Oster-Granite**, Health Science Administrator in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Branch will retire June 30 after ~20 years of service in the federal government.



Retirement



- ◆ **Lynne Mofenson**, Branch Chief of Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Branch, will retire at the end of September, after a quarter century at NICHD



NICHD Upcoming Recruitments



- ◆ Chief, Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Branch
- ◆ Medical Officer, Maternal and Pediatric Infectious Disease Branch
- ◆ Medical Officer, Pregnancy and Perinatology Branch
- ◆ Medical Officer, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Branch
- ◆ Health Scientist Administrator, Child Development & Behavior Branch

Steve Hirschfeld Recognized



- ◆ Next week Steven Hirschfeld will receive the Research Physician of the Year award from United States Public Health Service, Physicians Professional Advisory Committee



National Children's Study



- ◆ Awaiting findings of review by the Institute of Medicine/National Research Council panel; report release anticipated later this month
- ◆ Moving ahead with FY 14 activities including the Vanguard (pilot) Study and basic preparations for the Main Study
- ◆ NCS held a public webinar to solicit comments and suggestions from the scientific community, health professionals, and the general public on the proposed Study content framework

NCMRR Implementation



- ◆ Developing a new funding model continues as an iterative, consultative process
- ◆ Re-energized trans-NIH Rehabilitation Coordinating Committee
- ◆ Established an Ad Hoc Working Group of the Committee, including program staff from multiple ICs with medical rehabilitation portfolios to look at various options to coordinate research across the NIH
- ◆ 6.5% NICHD extramural funds allocated to NCMRR

Meetings of Note



- ◆ February 6: Attended Spelman College's Wellness Revolution Summit to encourage undergraduates, faculty, and staff to embark on and maintain a lifestyle of wellness and met with young women interested in pursuing advanced education in the biomedical sciences
- ◆ February 20-21: NICHD Intramural Strategic Planning Retreat - a lively and useful discussion about the future of our intramural program



More Meetings of Note



- ◆ March 26: “**Growing** up with Disorders of Sexual **Development**” Workshop - a very useful exploration of this important, and at times controversial, topic
- ◆ April 14-15: “Military Connected Children with Special Health Care Needs and **Their Families**” to **better understand** this understudied area
- ◆ April 21-22: The Pediatric Trauma and Critical Illness Branch Strategic Planning Workshop to develop a plan to move research forward in this newly formed branch
- ◆ April 23: “**Unintentional Injury Prevention: Research Needs,**” to identify common causes and prevention approaches in head trauma from sports and household injuries

Even More Meetings of Note



- ◆ May 5-6: Biomarkers of Nutrition for Development (BOND) Program Meeting attendees met to develop a "road map" to determine how to use the recommended biomarkers to improve health in individuals and in populations
- ◆ May 19: The Safe to Sleep® Breastfeeding Outreach Meeting to determine the best strategies to promote both safe infant sleep and breastfeeding
- ◆ May 20: The NICHD Diversity Task Force Meeting tackled issues pertaining to developing, implementing, and evaluating initiatives created to enhance diversity and promote equity in the NICHD research portfolio
- ◆ June 2-3: Mental Health in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Research Challenges and Opportunities

The Human Placenta Project



NICHD Communication Efforts

- ◆ Intensified efforts to reach diversified audiences, including translating our website, news releases, and podcasts into Spanish
- ◆ Increase in social media followers of NICHD - collaborating organizations have been particularly effective in helping get our messages out through Twitter Chats and other social media shares



A New Home: 6710 Rockledge Drive



But, First...



Legislative Updates



Appropriations Update



- ◆ In January, FY 2014 Budget was established
- ◆ An increase over FY 2013, but less than pre-sequestration FY 2012 budget
- ◆ NICHD: ~\$1.28 billion or ~2.7% more than FY 2013
- ◆ President's 2015 Budget was released in March
- ◆ The FY 2015 Labor-HHS bill has not yet passed either the House or Senate



White House Healthy Kids & Safe Sports Concussion Summit



- ◆ May 29 in the East Room, bringing together athletes, families, organizations, and athletes to spotlight this growing societal concern

Upcoming Hill Briefing



- ◆ The Friends of NICHD will host a briefing on June 9 to honor Yvonne Maddox's work at NICHD, especially related to health disparities. Speakers include:
 - Jack Yanovski, Senior Investigator, Program Section on Growth and Obesity
 - Regina James, Director of the Office of Health Equity
 - Shavon Artis, Safe to Sleep Campaign Manager

Gabriella Miller Kids First Research Act



- ◆ Eliminates taxpayer financing (check off) for presidential campaigns
- ◆ Monies in check-off fund would be in a special account, to be spent only on pediatric research
- ◆ **Authorizes** a 10-Year Pediatric Research Initiative Fund in the NIH Common Fund of \$12.6 million for each of the FYs 2014 – 2023
- ◆ Congress **can't** appropriate these funds unless they are taken from another part of the Labor-HHS Education allocation

Now it's your turn...



Comments, questions?