Developing a Strategic Plan for the NIH Office of Disease Prevention

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The Office of Disease Prevention
Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives

Director NIH

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Office of AIDS Research
  - Office of Portfolio Analysis

Office of Research on Women's Health
  - Office of Program Evaluation & Performance

Office of Disease Prevention

Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

Office of Strategic Coordination

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Office of Sexual & Gender Minority Research Office

Office of Tribal Health Research Office

Office of Administrative Management & Communications

NICHD: January 18, 2018
Mission

- To improve the public health by increasing the scope, quality, dissemination, and impact of prevention research supported by NIH.
- Provide leadership for the development, coordination, and implementation of prevention research in collaboration with ICs and other partners.
Current Activities

- ODP manages the $100M Tobacco Regulatory Science Program.
- ODP is the NIH liaison to other DHHS activities and partners.
  - U.S. Preventive Services Task Force
  - Community Preventive Services Task Force
  - Healthy People 2020
- ODP offers an evidence-based assessment program
  - Pathways to Prevention
- ODP offers training and education
  - Mind the Gap, Gordon Lecture, pre-conference methods workshops
- ODP co-funds NIH research projects, meetings, and workshops that support prevention research.
- ODP has a staff of 30 FTE and 1 onsite contractor
Systematically Monitor NIH Investments in Prevention Research and the Results of that Research

- Challenges in 2013…
  - Existing portfolio analysis methods had unknown sensitivity and specificity.
  - They provided inadequate detail on features like outcome, exposure, study type, design, age group, etc.
  - They could not accurately characterize levels or trends for awards or dollars.
  - They could not identify areas with inadequate support.
  - They could not be used effectively to address this strategic priority.
Monitor NIH Investments in Prevention Research

Progress

- Developed a taxonomy for prevention research with 8 categories and 135 topics.
- Coded 5612 type 1 R01 abstracts for FY10-15 -- all RCDC prevention awards, and a 5% random sample of the remainder.
- Collaborated with OPA to develop machine learning tools to automate the coding process.
- Coded >15,000 R, P, and U awards from FY12-17, using the machine learning tools to guide their selection.
- Will publish findings in 2018, collaborating with ICs to develop manuscripts.
Monitor NIH Investments in Prevention Research

- **Proposed Objectives**
  - Characterize and report on the NIH prevention research portfolio based on the taxonomy for prevention research developed by the ODP.
  - Regularly assess the progress and results of NIH investments in prevention research.
  - Partner with NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices to disseminate ODP portfolio analysis tools and related data.
Identify Prevention Research Gaps for Investment or Expanded Effort by the NIH

- Challenges in 2013…
  - ICs looked to ODP for advice on areas and topics for new or expanded prevention research.
  - Better portfolio analysis methods would help.
  - Regular interaction with key stakeholders would help.
    - US Preventive Services Task Force
    - Community Preventive Services Task Force
    - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
    - Professional societies
Identify Prevention Research Gaps

- Progress
  - Improved coordination between NIH and the USPSTF, including an annual survey of Insufficient Evidence statements to monitor progress and identify opportunities.
  - Increased efforts to disseminate the Insufficient Evidence findings of the CPSTF to the research community.
  - Partnered with HHS ODPHP and the ICs to support Healthy People 2020 and develop Healthy People 2030.
  - Offered Pathways to Prevention (P2P) workshops.
Identify Prevention Research Gaps

- Proposed Objectives:
  - Work with a variety of stakeholders to identify needs in prevention research.
  - Compare identified needs in prevention research with the current NIH portfolio to identify gaps in prevention research.
  - Work across the ODP and with NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices to identify the most promising/feasible prevention research gaps for investment or expanded effort.
Promote the Use of the Best Available Methods and Support the Development of Better Methods

- Challenges in 2013…
  - Evidence showed that the best methods were not always used.
  - My observations, based on 33 years as an NIH funded investigator and reviewer told me that…
    - Program and review staff were not always up to date, making it harder for them to advise applicants and empanel study sections.
    - Review panels often lacked necessary methodological expertise.
    - Steps were needed to ensure applications with strong methods were distinguished from those with weak methods.
Promote the Use of the Best Available Methods

- Progress
  - Created and posted online a 7-part course on Pragmatic and Group-Randomized Trials in Public Health and Medicine.
  - Added language to the Application Guide and Review Criteria for clinical trials applications and created ResearchMethodsResources.nih.gov.
  - Used the Prevention Research Expertise Survey to create a web-based tool for SROs to identify methods experts for review panels.
  - Telecast Medicine: Mind the Gap webinars exploring prevention methods.
  - Established the ODP Early Stage Investigator Lecture.
Promote the Use of the Best Available Methods

Proposed Objectives:

- Maintain catalogues and directories of existing NIH and other federal resources for prevention science methods.
- Provide resources for review staff to identify experts in prevention research methods for recruitment to review panels.
- Provide training in prevention science methods to NIH program and review staff, to NIH investigators, and to investigators external to NIH.
- Serve as a resource to other ICs on prevention science.
- Collaborate with other ICOs to strengthen NIH policies and procedures to encourage the use the best available.
- Conduct periodic reviews of methods used in prevention research, including systematic reviews of the peer-reviewed literature.
Promote Collaborative Prevention Research Projects and Facilitate Coordination of such Projects

- Challenges in 2013…
  - All of the ICs supported prevention research in their own areas.
  - Enhanced collaboration and coordination among ICs could result in better outcomes and more efficient use of resources.
Promote Collaborative Prevention Research Projects

- **Progress**
  - Provided input to all strategic plans developed by the ICs or for NIH.
  - Co-led the development of the National Nutrition Research Roadmap and now coordinating the 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans.
  - Collaborating with existing Scientific Interest Groups to increase focus on prevention research.
  - Created five new Scientific Interest Groups.
    - Childhood Screening
    - Adult Screening
    - Genetics of Prevention
    - Environmental and Policy-level Interventions
    - Interventions to Prevent or Delay the Onset of Multiple Comorbid Diseases
Promote Collaborative Prevention Research Projects

- Proposed Objectives:
  - Establish or promote infrastructures and processes to foster prevention research coordination and collaboration across the NIH and with other public and private prevention partners.
  - Coordinate and support the development of collaborative prevention initiatives to address gaps in prevention research and practice.
  - Advance approaches for projecting future research needs and priorities in prevention and highlighting trans-NIH efforts to address those gaps.
  - Work with other public and private prevention partners to develop a triennial State of Prevention conference highlighting research progress, gaps and opportunities focused on a specific prevention gap of cross cutting relevance across NIH.
Advance the Understanding of Prevention Research

- Challenges in 2013…
  - NIH was focused much more on basic science and on developing and evaluating treatments than on prevention.
  - The prevention community at NIH asked ODP to take a leadership role in promoting prevention research both at NIH and elsewhere.
Advance the Understanding of Prevention Research

Progress
- Expanded ODP website from 4 to >250 pages.
- Created a presence on social media.
- Built e-mail lists for targeted messaging.
- Strengthened partnerships with professional societies.
- Presented ODP resources at scientific meetings.
- Provided communications support to all ODP teams, webinars, workshops, and meetings.
- Created and posted information and interactive tools for prevention researchers to find valuable resources.

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Advance the Understanding of Prevention Research

- Proposed Objectives:
  - Increase the visibility of information about prevention research.
  - Engage and collaborate with stakeholders to coordinate and enhance communications about disease prevention research.
  - Support the communications-related efforts of all ODP Strategic Priorities including the promotion of ODP activities, events, and resources.
Developing the new ODP Strategic Plan

- Input from Councils, IC Directors, NIH staff ongoing
- Posted draft plan and issued RFI on November 30, 2017
- Revise plan, prepare milestones and timelines by March 31, 2018
- Prepare staffing plan and resource request by May 31, 2018
- Submit the package for approval by June 30, 2018
- Release the final plan on September 30, 2018
Discussion Questions

- How can ODP be of help to NICHD to advance prevention research?
- Are there other strategic priorities ODP should consider?
- Are there cross-cutting themes that ODP should consider, apart from the draft priorities?