

# OBSSR Strategic Plan

Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

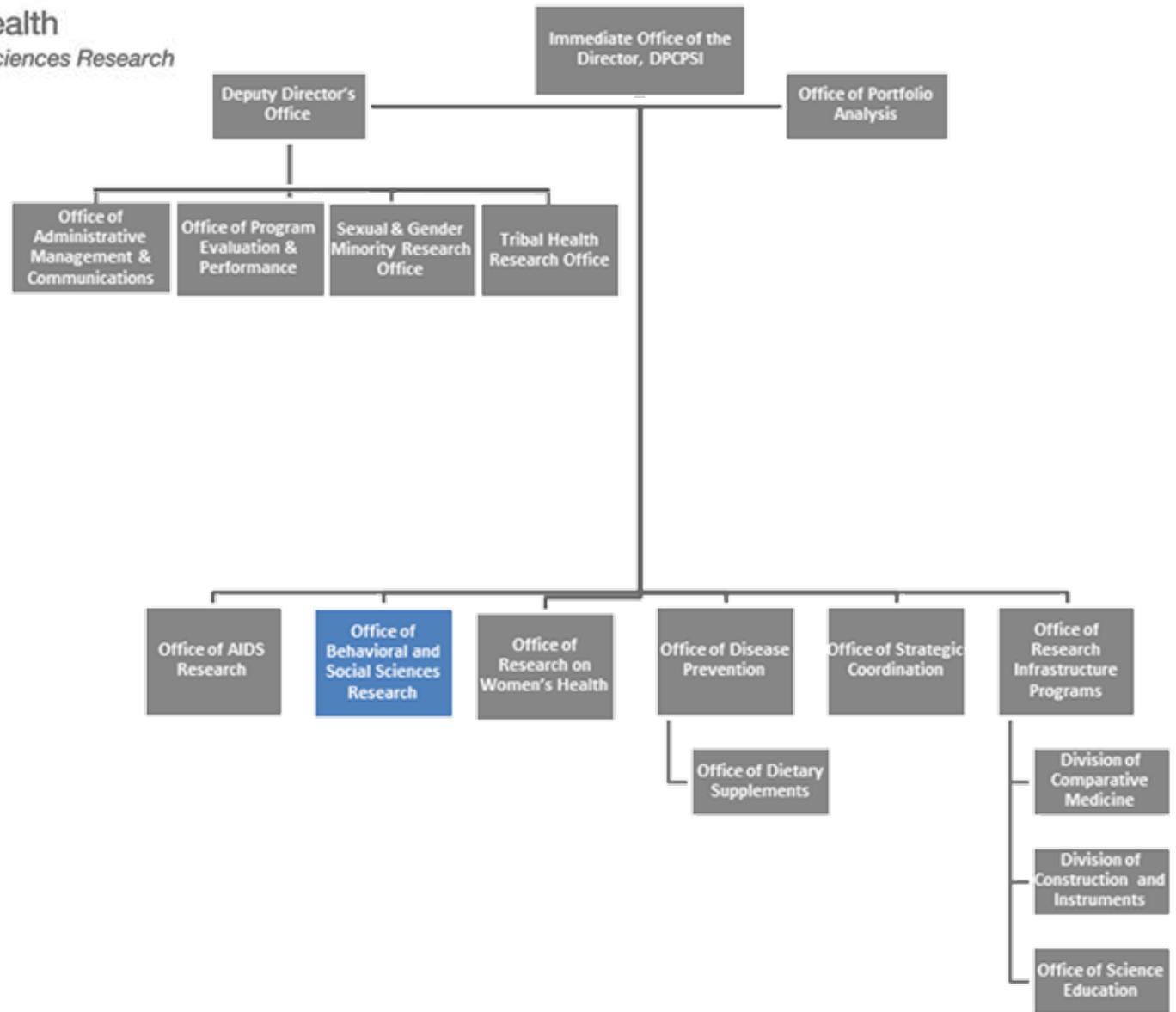
National Institutes of Health

William Riley, Ph.D.  
Director

Office of Behavioral and Social  
Sciences Research

# Creation of the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research

- ❖ Authorized by Congress in 1993 and established in 1995
- ❖ “Coordinate research conducted or supported by the agencies of the NIH”
- ❖ “Identify projects of behavioral and social sciences research that should be conducted or supported by the national research institutes, and develop such projects in cooperation with such institutes”



# OBSSR Mission

## ❖ Mission

- ✓ To enhance the scientific and public health impact of behavioral and social sciences research
- ✓ To coordinate behavioral and social sciences research conducted or supported by the NIH and integrate these sciences within the larger NIH research enterprise
- ✓ To communicate health-related behavioral and social sciences research findings to various stakeholders within and outside the federal government

# OBSSR Strategic Plans

## 1997 Strategic Plan

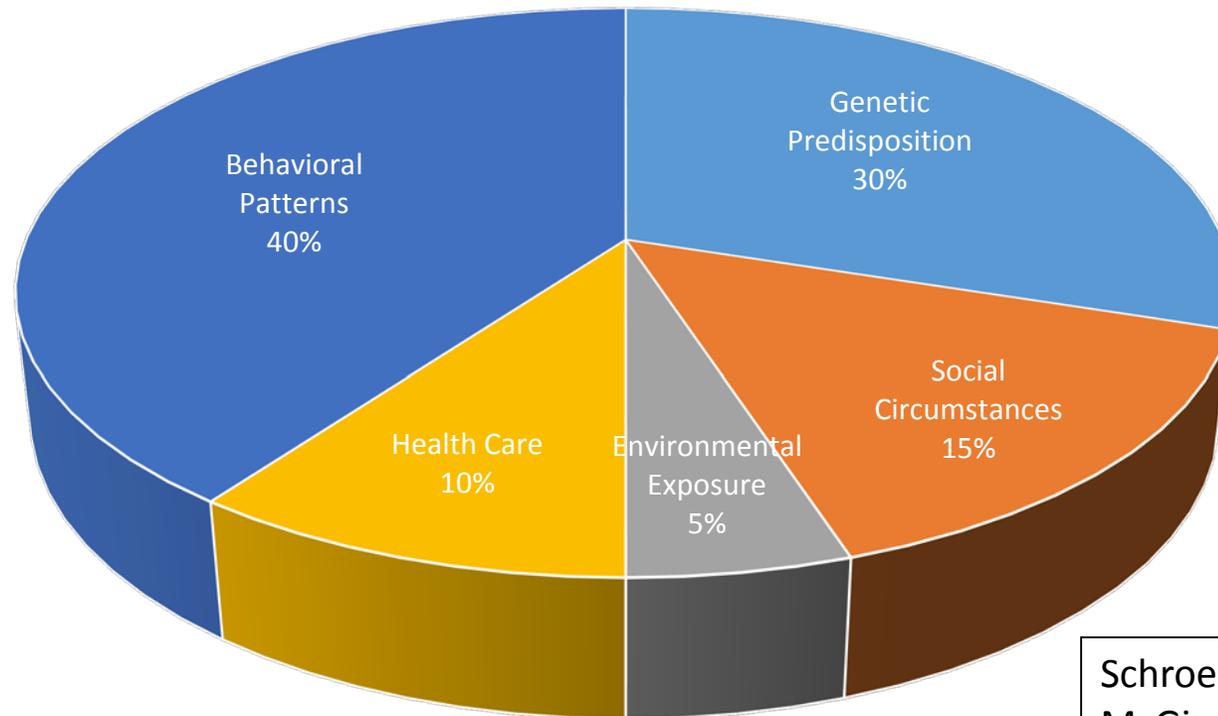
- ❖ Enhance Behavioral and Social Sciences Research and Training
- ❖ Integrate Biobehavioral Perspectives in All NIH Research Areas
- ❖ Improve Communications Among Behavioral and Social Science Researchers and the Public

## 2007 Strategic Plan

- ❖ Basic Science
- ❖ Interdisciplinary Research
- ❖ Systems Science
- ❖ Population Impact

# Contribution of Behavioral and Environmental Factors to Premature Death

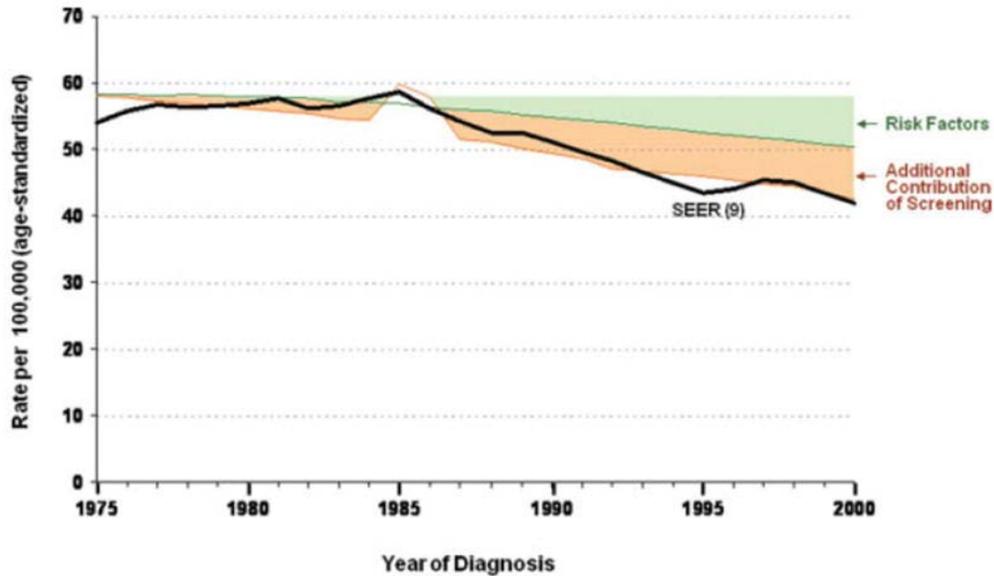
Proportional Contributions to Premature Death



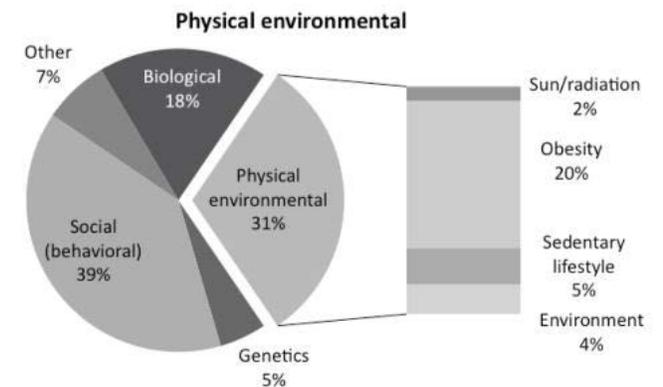
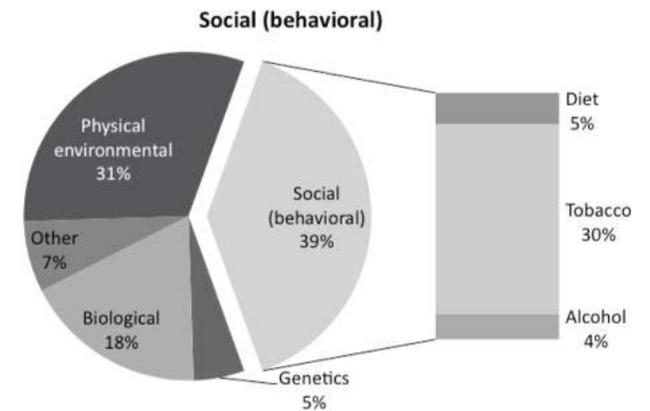
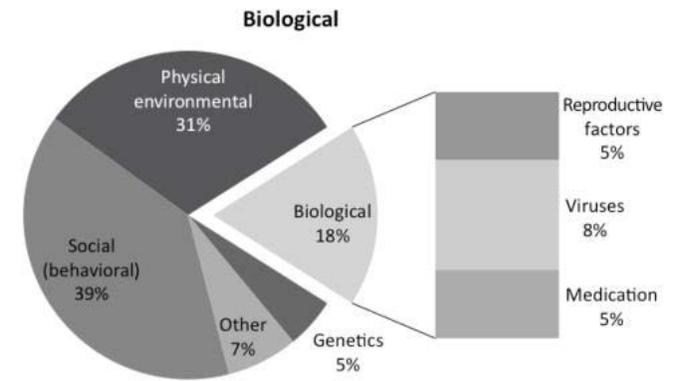
Schroeder et al. (2007, *NEJM*)  
McGinnis (1993, *JAMA*)

# Preventability of Cancer

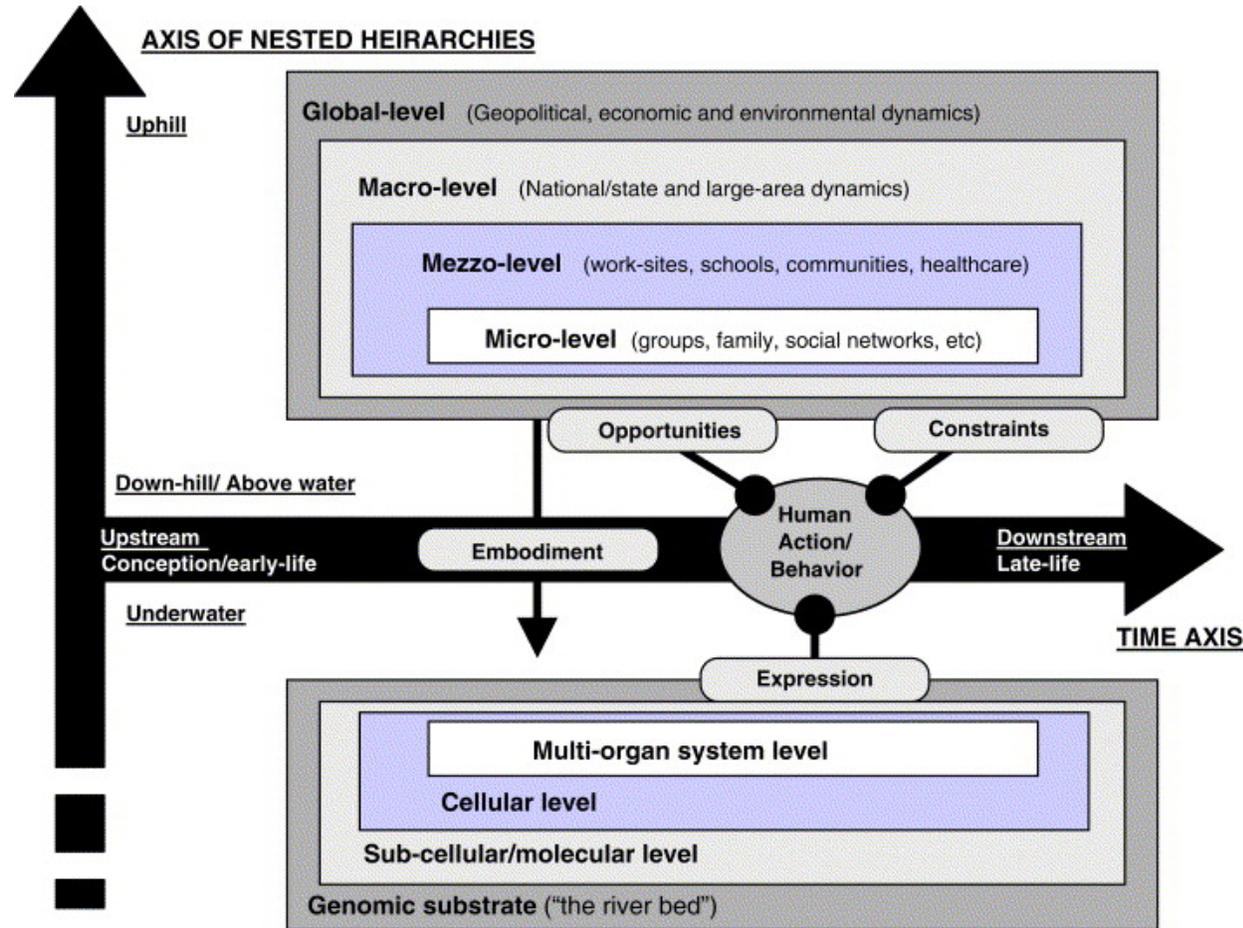
(Colditz and Wei; 2012)



Decline in colorectal cancer incidence partitioned between changing risk factors and screening. From Edwards et al. 2010 (43).



# Multiple Levels of Influence



Glass & McAtee, 2006, Soc Science Med

# Guiding Principles for the Development of the Strategic Plan

- ❖ *Integration* of BSSR into the broader biomedical research efforts consistent with the NIH mission
- ❖ *Coordination* and collaboration with ICs
- ❖ Identify *critical challenges* that are barriers to advancement in BSSR (most impact to the largest proportion of behavioral and social science researchers)
- ❖ Focus on challenges that *OBSSR is uniquely positioned to address* (“if OBSSR didn’t exist, would it be accomplished?”)

# Strategic Planning Process and Timeline

- ❖ Sept., 2015: Internal Retreats
- ❖ Oct., 2015: Initiate Strategic Planning Workgroup meetings
- ❖ Nov., 2015: RFI on BSSR Challenges
- ❖ Jan., 2016: Expert Panel Meeting
- ❖ Feb., 2016: Begin IC meetings (leadership and BSSR staff)
- ❖ Mar., 2016: Begin Draft of Strategic Plan
- ❖ May, 2016: Stakeholder Webinars
- ❖ June, 2016: Vet and Finalize Plan

## Strategic Plan Working Group

Wilson Compton (NIDA)  
Bob Croyle (NCI)  
Larry Fine (NHLBI)  
James Griffin (NICHD)  
Christine Hunter (NIDDK)  
David Murray (ODP)  
Lis Nielsen (NIA)  
Kevin Quinn (NIMH)  
Karyl Swartz (CSR)

## Expert Panel

- ❖ BJ Casey, Ph.D., Sackler Professor of Developmental Psychobiology, Weill Medical College of Cornell University
- ❖ Fay Cook, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences, National Science Foundation
- ❖ Ana Diez Roux, M.D., Ph.D., MPH., Dean, Dornsife School of Public Health, Drexel University
- ❖ Elissa Epel, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry, University of California San Francisco
- ❖ Sarah Gehlert, Ph.D., MSW, E. Desmond Lee Professor of Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Washington University
- ❖ Shiriki Kumanyika, Ph.D., MPH., Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology, University of Pennsylvania
- ❖ Alan Leshner, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer Emeritus, American Association for the Advancement of Science
- ❖ David Mohr, Ph.D., Professor, Preventive Medicine– Behavioral Medicine, Northwestern University
- ❖ Tracy Orleans, Ph.D., Senior Scientist, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- ❖ Ken Resnicow, Ph.D., Professor, Health Behavior & Health Education, University of Michigan

## OBSSR Scientific Priorities

Basic and  
Applied  
Research  
Synergy

Methods,  
Measures,  
and Data  
Infrastructures

Application &  
Adoption of  
BSSR  
Research

## Foundational Processes

Communication

Program Coordination and Integration

Training

Policy and Evaluation

# Scientific Priority 1: Improve the Synergy of Basic and Applied Behavioral and Social Science Research

- ❖ Objective 1.1: Identify and encourage promising basic behavioral and social sciences research (bBSSR) with strong potential for applied translation relevant to health.
- ❖ Objective 1.2: Facilitate greater interaction between basic and applied BSSR researchers to facilitate furthering the translation of basic and applied behavioral and social sciences research.

## Scientific Priority 2: Enhance the Methods, Measures, and Data Infrastructures to Encourage a More Cumulative Behavioral and Social Sciences

- ❖ Objective 2.1: Encourage data integration and replication in the behavioral and social sciences
- ❖ Objective 2.2: Facilitate the development and testing of new measurement approaches
- ❖ Objective 2.3: Expand the repertoire of methods available to social and behavioral researchers

# Scientific Priority 3: Facilitate the Adoption of Behavioral and Social Science Research Findings in Health Research and Practice

- ❖ Objective 3.1: Encourage research that studies mechanisms and interventions in context
- ❖ Objective 3.2: Enhance the relevance and scalability of social and behavioral interventions
- ❖ Objective 3.3: Foster collaborations with agencies and entities that utilize and/or deliver social and behavioral research findings, and evaluate systemic and policy changes that facilitate or impede adoption of effective approaches

# Examples of Current Activities in Scientific Priorities

- ❖ Scientific Priority 1: Improve the Synergy of Basic and Applied Behavioral and Social Science Research
  - ❖ *OppNet Initiatives on “Basic Processes of Chronic Disease Self Management”, and “Complex Dynamic Modeling of Resilience Processes”*
- ❖ Scientific Priority 2: Enhance the Methods, Measures, and Data Infrastructures to Encourage a More Cumulative Behavioral and Social Sciences
  - ❖ *Initiatives on Systems Science, and Methodology and Measurement Advances*
  - ❖ *Workgroup on Comparison Conditions in Behavioral Clinical Trials*
- ❖ Scientific Priority 3: Facilitate the Adoption of Behavioral and Social Science Research Findings in Health Research and Practice
  - ❖ *Dissemination and Implementation Research Training*
  - ❖ *NCCOR and other collaborations*

# Foundational Processes

- ❖ **Communicating** behavioral and social science research findings
- ❖ **Coordinating** behavioral and social science research programs across the NIH and **integrating** behavioral and social sciences research within the larger NIH biomedical research enterprise
- ❖ **Training** the next generation of behavioral and social science researchers
- ❖ **Evaluating** the impact of behavioral and social sciences research and addressing scientific policies that support this research

# Examples of Current Activities in Foundational Processes

- ❖ **Communicating** behavioral and social science research findings
  - ❖ *Matilda White Riley Excellence Lecture and Early Stage Investigator Paper Awards*
- ❖ **Coordinating** behavioral and social science research programs across the NIH and **integrating** behavioral and social sciences research within the larger NIH biomedical research enterprise
  - ❖ Strengthening BSSR-CC functions with subcommittee workgroup structure
  - ❖ Contributing to trans-NIH initiatives such as PMI, ECHO, BRAIN, and ABCD
- ❖ **Training** the next generation of behavioral and social science researchers
  - ❖ R25 awards for intensive training in RCTs, Optimization Designs, mHealth, CBPR
  - ❖ Developing interdisciplinary training efforts in Population Health
- ❖ **Evaluating** the impact of behavioral and social sciences research and addressing scientific policies
  - ❖ Strengthening portfolio analysis capabilities
  - ❖ Ongoing evaluations of training efforts, initiatives, and updating the BSSR definition

# Questions and Comments