

COUNCIL OF COUNCILS

NIH and DPCPSI Updates

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Acting NIH Deputy Director for Program Coordination, Planning, and
Strategic Initiatives,

Acting Director, DPCPSI

and

Acting Chair, NIH Council of Councils

NIH Leadership Changes



Courtney Aklin,
Ph.D.
Acting Director,
National Institute of
Nursing Research
(NINR)



Alison Cernich,
Ph.D.
Acting Director,
*Eunice Kennedy
Shriver* National
Institute of Child
Health and Human
Development (NICHD)



Monica Webb
Hooper, Ph.D.
Acting Director,
National Institute on
Minority Health and
Health Disparities
(NIMHD)

Andrea Beckel-
Mitchener,
Ph.D.
Acting Director,
National Institute of
Mental Health (NIMH)



Jeff
Taubenberger,
Ph.D.
Acting Director,
National Institute of
Allergy and Infectious
Diseases (NIAID)



Carolyn Hutter,
Ph.D.
Acting Director,
National Human
Genome Research
Institute (NHGRI)



DPCPSI Leadership Changes



Vivian Ota Wang,
Ph.D., FACMG, CGC

Acting Director, Office of Strategic
Coordination



Cindy Caughman,
M.P.H.

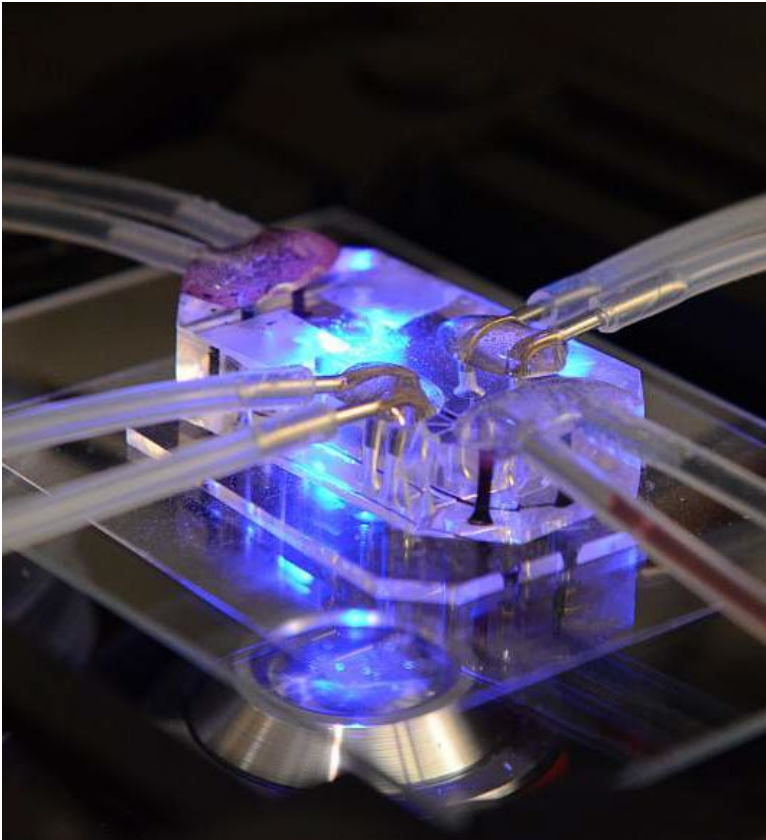
Acting Deputy Director, Office of
Research on Women's Health

Peer Review Centralization

- As CSR takes on all NIH review, CSR senior leaders are learning from their IC counterparts about peer review processes unique to each IC. CSR will also capitalize on the experience of review staff moving from ICs to CSR.
- NIH is aware that Integrated Review Groups (IRGs) and Special Emphasis Panels (SEPs) must complete their work for the May Council round before termination.
- Members of standing committees to be terminated will be granted continuous submission privileges until Aug 10, 2026.
- CSR recognizes the expertise among the reviewers serving on IC IRGs and SEPs and are likely to reach out and invite them to serve on CSR panels.
- Applications that would have been reviewed by IC IRGs and SEPs will be reviewed in a timely fashion by CSR.

NIH to prioritize human-based research technologies

NIH intends to **develop, validate, and scale the use of NAMs** (new approach methodologies)



- NAMs offer unique advantages that can enhance research capabilities when utilized correctly or in combination
 - Focus on human-specific data
 - Streamline the research process
 - Reduced reliance on animal testing
- NIH investment in these technologies have been increasing over time. Existing NIH efforts include:
 - Interagency Coordinating Committee for the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM)
 - NCATS Tissue Chip Program and 3-D Tissue Bioprinting Program
 - NIH Common Fund's Complement Animal Research In Experimentation (Complement-ARIE) Program

2025-2030 NIH Strategic Plan for Data Science



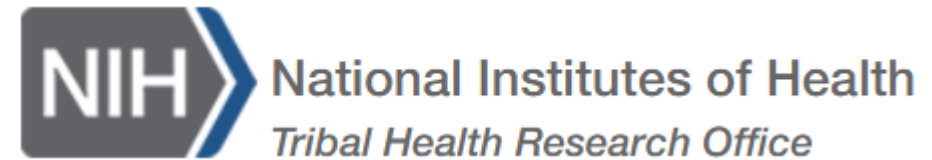
Strategic Plan Goals:

- Support Data Management and Federated Resources
- Enhance Human-Derived Data for Research
- Create New Opportunities in Software, Computation, and AI
- Strengthen Data Science Community

NIH and HHS Leadership Meet with Tribal Leaders

In February and April, THRO led NIH's participation in the **HHS Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC)** and **Annual Tribal Budget Consultation (ATBC)** meetings, held at HHS headquarters:

- **Sec. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.** and **Dr. Matthew Memoli** met with the STAC
- **Dr. Jay Bhattacharya** was introduced to Tribal Leaders and participated in a panel on chronic disease during the ATBC, followed by an update and Q&A with STAC



[YouTube: Meeting with Tribal Advisory Committee](#)

9th Annual Vivian W. Pinn Symposium

- ORWH recognized National Women's Health Week with the Vivian W. Pinn Symposium on May 15th
- Symposium objectives:
 - **Data Dissemination:** Highlight quantitative and qualitative federal data resources that can be used to understand women's health in context
 - **Data Literacy:** Familiarize with key concepts in data science and social determinants of health
 - **Real-World Science:** Highlight applications of data science-based applications to community-centered projects
 - **Data Privacy:** Review key issues and opportunities related to data privacy and accessibility



Learn more here:



2025 Drosophila Community Service Award

The ORIP and NIGMS-funded **Gene Disruption** and **Transgenic RNAi** projects were awarded the **2025 Drosophila Community Service**. These projects:

- Made outstanding contributions to the development of technology and resources that have **benefited almost all Drosophila researchers**
- Generated and donated over **34,500 genetic stocks** to the Bloomington Drosophila Stock Center, which in return **distributed over a million samples** from these projects to the research community in the past 20 years
- **Enabled a broad range of functional studies of almost every gene** in the fly and provided insight into mechanisms, diagnosis, and treatment of a wide range of human diseases



Transgenic RNAi Project (TRiP)