

NIH Tribal Advisory Committee

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A bit about me...

- Clinical health psychologist
- Behavioral health clinical trialist
- NIH grantee for entire academic career with a Center on integrating mental health and primary HIV care
- University of Washington 2001-2023
- Joined [OBSSR as Director](#) in 2023
- Associate Director for BSSR at NIH



NIH Organizational Chart

NIH Office of the Director

Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI)

Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (OBSSR)

27 Institutes and Centers

National Cancer Institute	National Eye Institute	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute	National Human Genome Research Institute	National Institute on Aging	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering	<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders	National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases	National Institute on Drug Abuse	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences	National Institute of General Medical Sciences
National Institute of Mental Health	National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities	National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	National Institute of Nursing Research	National Library of Medicine	National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health	Fogarty International Center
		<i>Clinical Center</i>	<i>Center for Information Technology</i>	<i>Center for Scientific Review</i>			





Strategic Plan 2025-2029

Vision

The **synergistic integration of behavioral and social sciences in health research** leading to accelerated scientific discovery, effective treatment and health-promotion interventions, and implementation strategies to improve health for all

Mission

Enhance the impact of health-related behavioral and social sciences research (BSSR) by:

- **Identifying** gaps and opportunities for BSSR
- **Integrating** BSSR within the larger NIH research enterprise
- **Developing** and **coordinating** BSSR initiatives with NIH ICO
- **Communicating** significant BSSR findings within NIH and beyond



Strategic Plan 2025-2029 Priorities

CROSS-CUTTING THEME HEALTH FOR ALL



RESEARCH

➤ Collaborative Science

- Integrate and Coordinate BSSR Across NIH
- Build a Cumulative BSSR Knowledge Base
- Enhance and Connect Basic and Applied BSSR

➤ Innovative, Rigorous, and Replicable Scientific Investigation

- Refine BSSR Measurement
- Promote Novel Experimental Designs
- Advance Data Analytics

➤ Implementation, Dissemination, and Impact

- Encourage Rigorous and Innovative
- Implementation and Dissemination Research Methods
- Center Health for All in Implementation and Dissemination Research

CAPACITY

- Expanding the BSSR Workforce
- Organizational Climate

OPERATIONAL

- Collaborative Partnerships
- Communication and Outreach



Training the Next Generation of Researchers

- T32 Program on Training in Advanced Data and Analysis for BSSR ([TADA-BSSR](#)) program
- R25 [annual short courses](#) in novel methodologies
- OBSSR highlights the work of **early career investigators** in an annual [Matilda White Riley Behavioral and Social Sciences Honors Lecture](#)
- Investment in and focus on Early Stage and New Investigators

We Know BSSR is Essential to Influencing Health Outcomes

Behavioral Factors

- Poor diet
- Physical inactivity
- Smoking
- Excessive alcohol consumption
- Sun exposure
- Risky behaviors: unsafe sex, not wearing seat belts, driving under the influence, and unsafe work practices

Social Factors and Structural Drivers (SDoH)

- Social isolation
- Limited access to healthful foods, economic advancement, safe places for physical activity, preventive services, and quality health care
- Environmental and occupational exposure to toxins and pollutants
- Income and education level (affects most of these other factors)

HHS and NIH Priorities align with AI/AN Research Needs

- Nutrition and access to nutritious foods
- Environmental exposures and maintaining healthy spaces
- Reducing the burden of chronic disease (including mental health, diabetes, and addiction)
- Social and commercial determinants of health
- Social and cultural revitalization opportunities for physical activity: organized sports
- Interest in rural health disparities, including AI/AN populations
- Continue with traditional mechanisms (e.g. parent NOFOs)
- Use Matchmaker to find an NIH