

Highlights of Tribal Activities at NIH

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Office of the Director

National Institutes of Health



Topics

- Tribal Health Research Office
- Tribal Health Research Coordinating Committee
- NIH-wide American Indian/Alaska Native Strategic Research Plan
- TCAC Membership
- Consultation on Human Subjects Protections
- New Initiatives

Tribal Health Research Office Director

- The new Tribal Health Research Office (THRO) is the NIH focal point for establishing agency-wide policies and goals in tribal health research
 - Coordinate research activities across NIH
 - Provides advice and staff support to the NIH

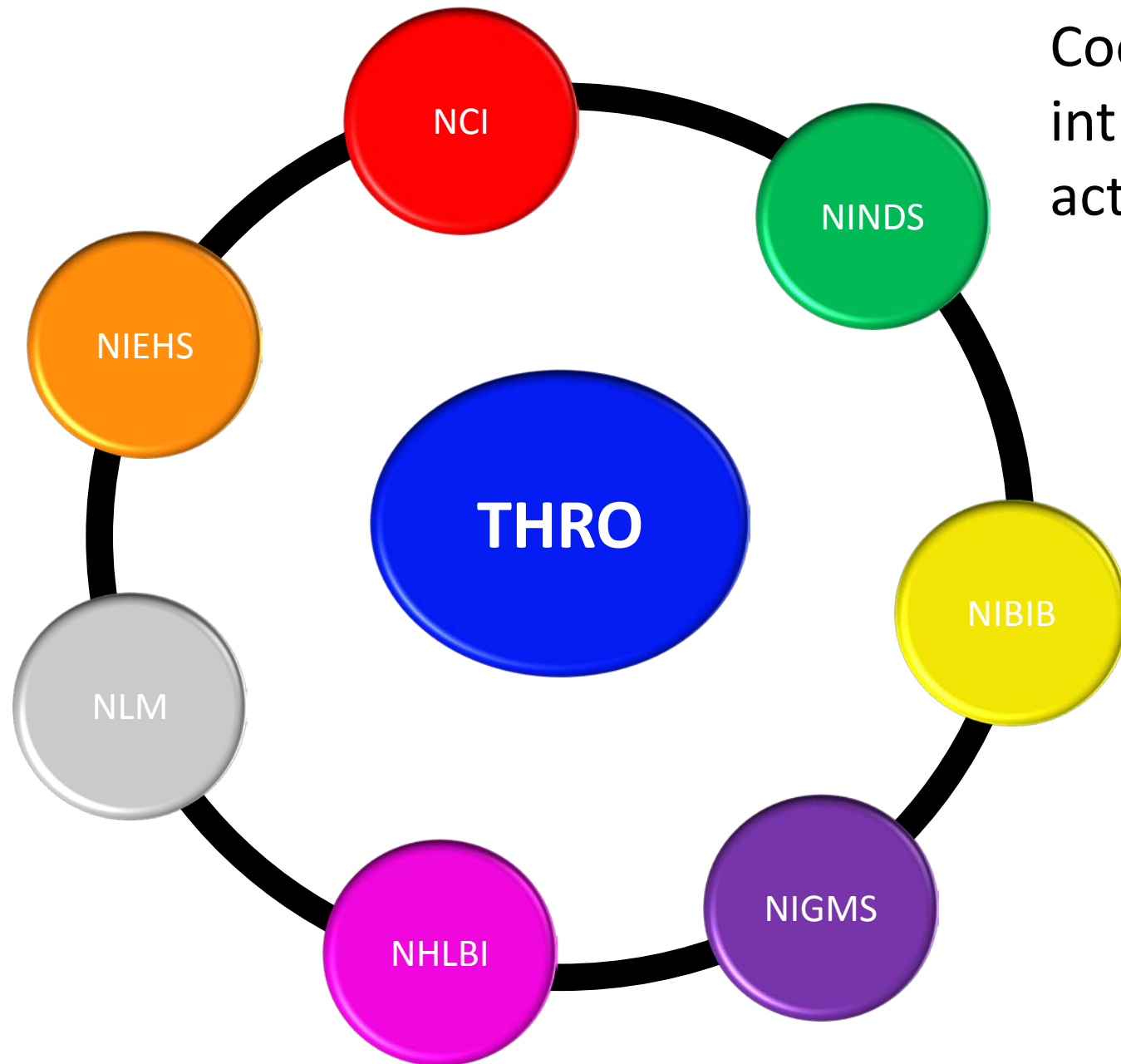


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Tribal Health Research Coordinating Committee

Tribal Health Research Coordinating Committee

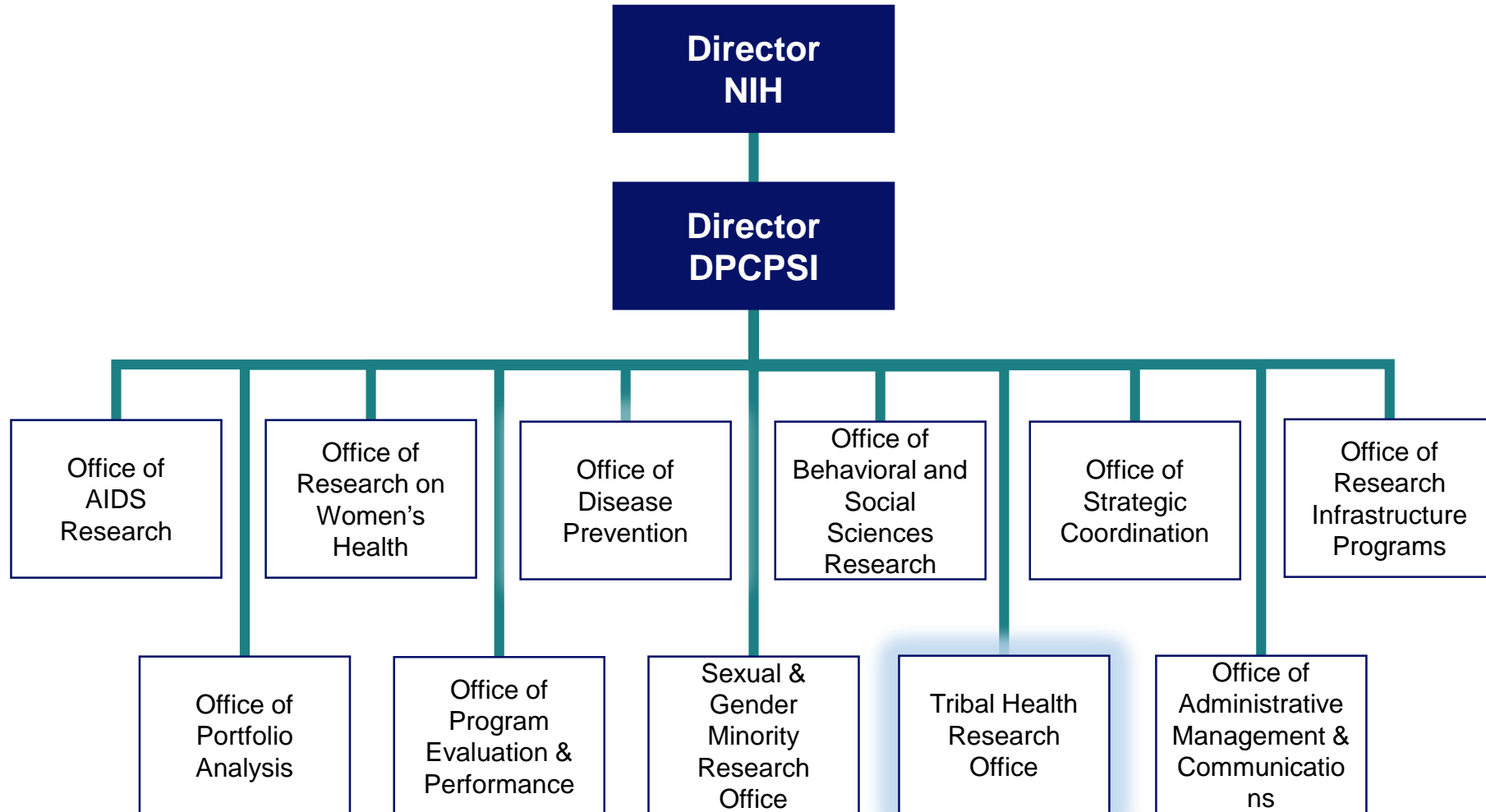
- Identify a representative who is hand pick by the director of each Institute or Center
- Work with THRO in developing a trans-NIH strategic plan
- Work in collaboration with THRO in carrying out activities that meet the goals of the strategic plan



Coordinating both intramural and extramural activities

Tribal Health Research Office

Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives



Tribal Health Research Office Strategic Plan

- Top priority for the Tribal Health Research Office Director, is to work with the NIH community and consult with AI/AN communities to develop a trans-NIH American Indian/Alaska Native Strategic Research Plan
- As part of developing the AI/AN Strategic Plan, DPCPSI will refine and complete a portfolio analysis
- The AI/AN Strategic Plan will guide trans-NIH coordination and prioritization and NIH's efforts with other agencies and organizations.

Tribal Consultation Advisory Committee

TCAC Membership

- Vacancies still exist in the following areas:

| Area | Delegate | Alternate | Technical Advisor |
|------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|
| Albuquerque Area | X | X | X |
| Phoenix Area | X | X | X |
| Billings Area | | X | X |
| Oklahoma Area | | X | |
| California Area | | X | |
| NALM | | 5 vacancies | 2 vacancies |

A call for nominations ended on Feb 24th.

Annual Consultation

- Was held in conjunction with the National Congress of American Indians on October 9 in Phoenix from 1:00-3:30 p.m.
- Agenda topics were prioritized by the TCAC, and two of the top ranked ones were:
 - Environmental Health
 - Mental Health
- 2017 Consultation site and topics? Please fill out the doodle poll so that we can discuss this item next week.

Consultation on Human Subjects Protections

Consultation was held on February 23, 2017

- **NIH's role in the stewardship of NIH-funded research involving individuals and populations**
- Advancing research to address public health needs
- Assuring the protection of individuals and populations participating in NIH-funded
- Assuring the IRB review and approval process, including research with tribal populations
- **Perspectives and recommendations from participating Tribal members on:** Ways of integrating tradition and culture in the design and conduct of research involving tribal populations
- Partnering with tribes in the design and conduct of research

Possible Additional Suggestion

- When asked to prioritize consultation topics, data sharing was near the top of the list
- There are a number of topics to cover in a data sharing consultation, such as
 - Ethical considerations
 - Legal issues, ownership
 - Social issues
 - Privacy and confidentiality
- NIH may recommend a separate consultation on data sharing

New Initiatives

Research

- Intervention Research to Improve Native American Health (IRINAH) Consortium
 - Developing a special supplement to *Prevention Science* focusing on best practices for interventions

New Initiatives

Training

- The Department of Bioethics offers a limited number of two-year post-doctoral and pre-doctoral (post-baccalaureate) fellowships.
- fellows have the opportunity to learn many aspects of bioethics, as well as support to develop and implement an independent scholarship agenda, with guidance from faculty mentors.
- In the fall the department is welcoming a PhD candidate from the Blackfeet Nation.

COMMENTS?