



Director's Update

May 19, 2026

Courtney F. Aklin, PhD, NINR Acting Director

Overview

- NINR Updates
- Extramural Updates
- Impactful Research
- Budget Updates
- NIH Updates





NINR Updates

NINR Acting Director Engagements

Developing Nurse Researchers

AACN Student Summit
Plenary on NINR and nursing research careers

NIH STRONG Grantee Meeting

Opening remarks on NINR's support for resource-limited institutions and early-stage investigators

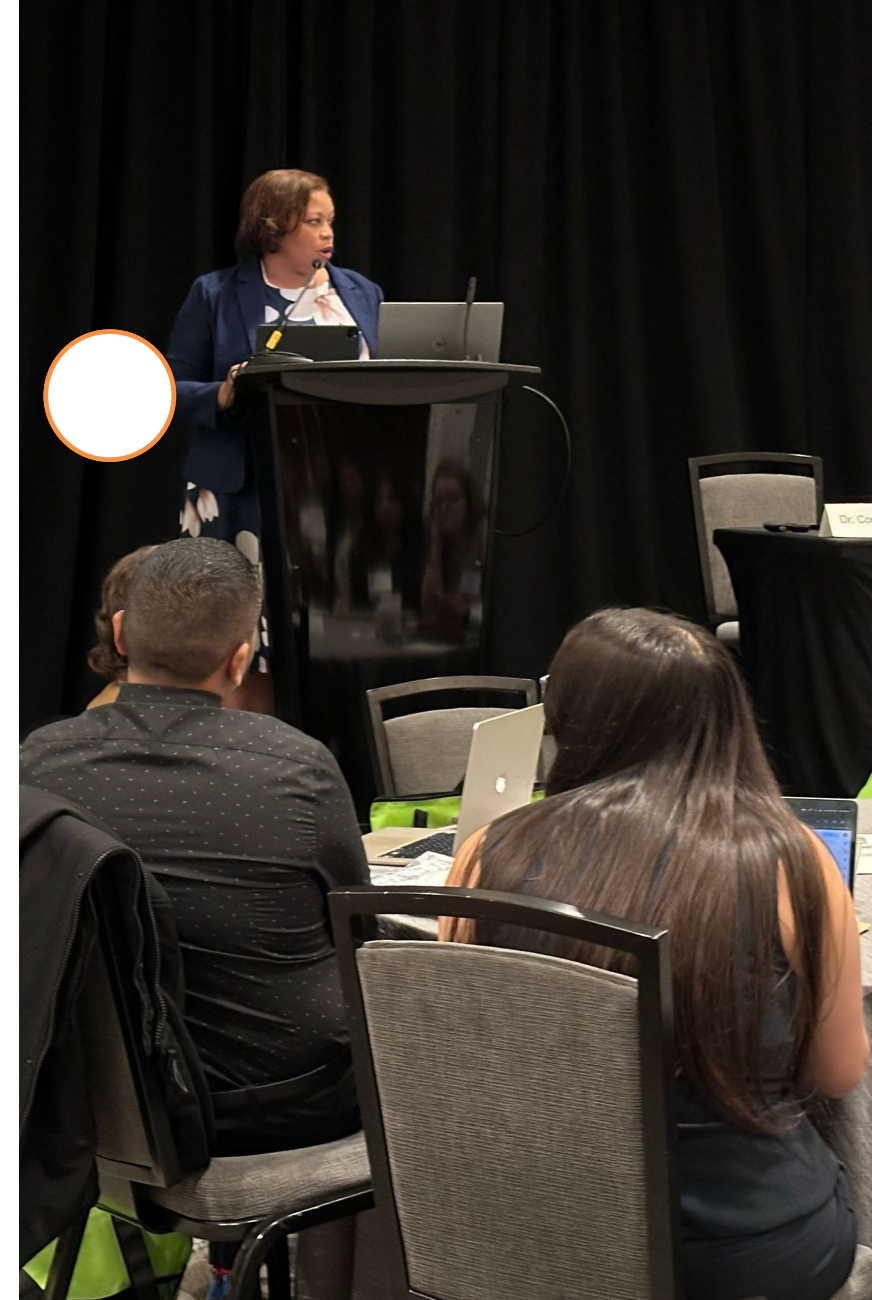
Elevating NINR's Mission & Visibility

Congressional Lunch & Learn

Raised awareness of NINR's mission, priorities, and impact

Midwest Nursing Research Society Conference

Engaged nurse scientists on NINR and nursing research



NINR Acting Director Engagement Continued

Advancing Real-World, Solutions-Focused Nursing Science

Tri-Council for Nursing Bi-Annual Meeting

Highlighted nursing science and NINR's role in real-world solutions

Health and Extreme Weather Program Science Symposium

Panelist; Nursing science drives local vulnerability interventions



Take Your Child to Work Day

Be a Street Safety Detective!

How Nursing Research Shapes Safer Communities

- Dr. Daniel Smolyak taught how NINR researchers train AI to assess street safety
- Attendees explored familiar streets, connecting scientific innovation directly to their communities



HAPPY NATIONAL NURSES WEEK! May 6 – 12, 2026



NINR joined Dr. Bhattacharya, the American Nurses Association and the NIH Chief Nurse Officer, Dr. Barbara Jordan, to celebrate the Clinical Center's nursing staff





National Institute
of Nursing Research

HAPPY NATIONAL NURSES WEEK! May 6 – 12, 2026



Launched Early-Stage Investigator
Lecture Series

Dr. Jane Muir presented research on
nursing models that improve care in
community settings

Joined by discussant/moderator Dr.
Gonzalez-Guarda, Professor, Duke
University School of Nursing



Building the NINR 2027 Strategic Plan

Inputs

Listening sessions
Internal staff input
Council guidance
Future RFI / public input

Synthesis

Themes across audiences
Gaps and opportunities
Areas needing better measures or methods

Prioritization

Scientific fit
NINR role within NIH
Feasibility and impact
Implementation pathway

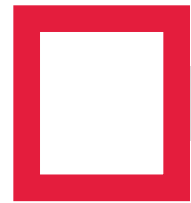
Plan

Clear priorities
Actionable language
Evidence of community and stakeholder input

NINR Strategic Plan 2027-2032 Planning Process

April – August 2026

Strategic Plan Evaluation



September – December 2026

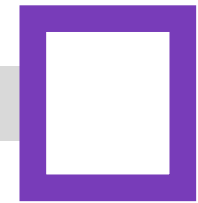
Draft Strategic Plan



May – August 2026
Community Engagement



Early 2027
Finalized Strategic Plan



Community Engagement Opportunities

1. Listening sessions: Virtual and in-person
2. Request for information (not yet released)
3. NINR Strategic Plan inbox ninrstrategicplan@mail.nih.gov



NINR Staffing Updates

Departed NINR

Dr. Dara Demner

Program Officer

Division of Extramural Science
Programs

Samantha Sanchez

Executive Assistant

Immediate Office of the Director

Joined NINR

Senetra Butler

Chief Administrative Officer

Division of Management Services

Thank You! NACNR Members Retiring

Dr. Sheila C. Sullivan



*NACNR from 1/31/17 - 1/31/21
11/22/22 - 5/2/26/9/26*

Dr. Patricia Stone



NACNR from 2/23/22 through 4/9/26



Extramural Updates

Extramural Updates

Developing Nurse Researchers

Sleep Research Program for Advancing Careers (SOAR) Young Investigators Forum

Presented NINR priorities to emerging nurse researchers

NIH Collaboration & Impact

NIH NOURISH Challenge

Supported autoimmune nutrition research competition

NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory

Shared feasibility expertise at Annual Steering Committee Meeting to strengthen pragmatic trial methodology

Extramural Updates Continued

Strengthening Nursing Connections

Nursing Regional Meetings

Engaged with researchers at all nursing regionals to share NINR priorities

Annual Assembly of Hospice and Palliative Medicine

Shared NIH/NINR priorities at palliative care roundtable

Duke Nursing Rural Health Symposium

Showcased NINR's longstanding commitment to rural health research



Nutrition Education for Health Care Professionals Challenge

Coming Soon!

Integration of Nutrition Training into Health Care Education Challenge

NINR is partnering with the Office of Nutrition Research (ONR) to identify and reward exemplary curricula for integrating nutrition training into health care education for physicians and nurses across the nation.

Total cash prizes: up to \$2,100,000





Highlighted Topics

Highlighted Topics – NINR Participation



Advancing Autoimmune Disease Research: Integrating Genetic, Environmental, and Immunological Factors

Research addressing the holistic needs of individuals, families, and communities affected by autoimmune diseases and effective clinical and organizational solutions that optimize their health and care delivery



Advancing Nutrition Research to Inform Regulatory Practice

focuses on advancing nutrition and food science to better understand the root causes of diet-related chronic disease



Multidisciplinary Studies of HIV/AIDS and Aging

improving understanding and management of HIV, aging, and related comorbidities across populations and settings

Highlighted Topics – NINR Participation



Implementation Science to Optimize HIV Prevention and Treatment

focuses on implementation research to improve uptake, delivery, and sustainability of evidence-based HIV prevention, treatment, and care strategies across settings



Training and Career Development in Dissemination and Implementation Science

building research training capacity in dissemination and implementation science to move evidence-based innovations into practice and everyday settings



Advancing the Use of Genomic Information into Clinical Care

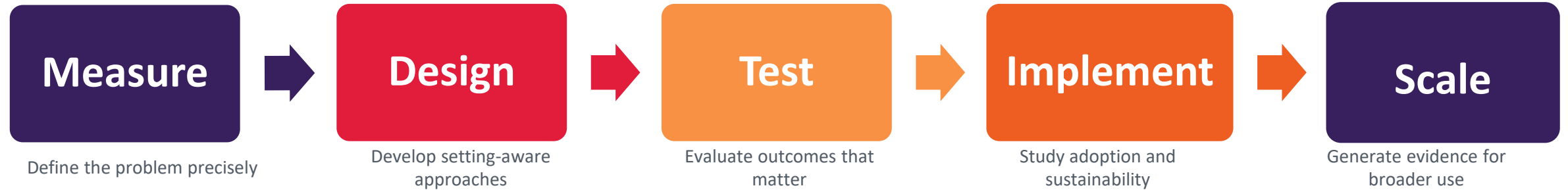
generating evidence for genomic medicine and improving how genomic findings are integrated into clinical care to optimize health outcomes



Impactful Research

From Describing Problems to Testing Solutions

The next phase of impact depends on moving evidence closer to real-world use



Actionable evidence is evidence with a path to adoption, adaptation, sustainability, and scale

A Digital App to Help Older Adults Choose Heart Care

R00NR019124 (PI: Turchioe)

- ✓ **High uptake/acceptability:** 81% length right, 71% info right, 67% enough info (n=58)
- ✓ **Context-dependent effect:** high baseline conflict improved (41.5→32.3, $p=0.023$); low baseline conflict worsened (12.7→28.8, $p=0.005$)
- ✓ **Qualitative barriers to impact**



Tong ST, Keiser B, Cortez K, et al. Integrated Nurse Care Management to Reduce Pain Interference for Primary Care Patients in Rural Communities: Results from a Pilot Study. *Pain Med*. Published online February 25, 2026. doi:10.1093/pm/pnag032

Integrated Nurse Care Management to Reduce Pain Interference for Primary Care Patients in Rural Communities: Results from a Pilot Study

UG3NR020930 (PI: Tong, Patel)

- ✓ **Pain interference decreased 0.9 points**
- ✓ **Adherence was high:** 65.5% completed ≥ 4 visits; mean 5.2 nurse visits.
- ✓ **Positive trends in secondary outcomes** PHQ-8 (depression) -0.7 ; WHOQOL (quality of life) $+0.3$; health satisfaction $+0.6$



Tong ST, Keiser B, Cortez K, et al. Integrated Nurse Care Management to Reduce Pain Interference for Primary Care Patients in Rural Communities: Results from a Pilot Study. *Pain Med*. Published online February 25, 2026. doi:10.1093/pm/pnag032

Transparent Mask Innovation in Healthcare: Improving Communication and Patient Care

R42NR017124 (PI: Hahne)

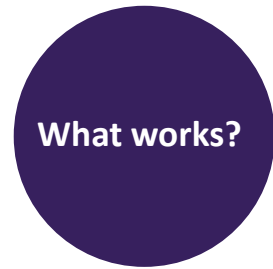
- ✓ **Compared no mask, opaque mask, and prototype transparent mask conditions for speech understanding in noise**
- ✓ **For hearing loss, seeing the speaker's face helped;** transparent/no mask outperformed opaque masks
- ✓ **Improved communication can support patient understanding, reduce the risk of errors, and improve patient experience**



Atcherson SR, Finley ET, Hahne J. Comparison of Prototype Transparent Mask, Opaque Mask, and No Mask on Speech Understanding in Noise. *Audiology Research*. 2025; 15(4):103. <https://doi.org/10.3390/audiolres15040103>

What Implementation-ready Evidence Should Answer

The field needs more than efficacy; it needs evidence that can guide decisions in real settings



Effectiveness and meaningful outcomes



Differences in distribution, reach, and fit



Context, resources, workflows, and constraints



Sustainment, cost, feasibility, scale

NINR opportunity: support studies that anticipate the pathway from evidence generation to adoption and impact



Budget Update

On February 3, 2026, the President signed H.R. 7148, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026, which provides full-year funding of \$48.9 billion for the NIH thru September 30, 2026

Note, the funding levels outlined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 do not account for HIV/AIDS transfers and other transfer authority that occur after enactment

**FY 2026 Appropriation through
September 30, 2026
(Dollars in Thousands)**

	FY 2026 Enacted	FY 2026 Transfers	FY 2026 Final	Percent Change
NINR Total	\$197,693	\$847	\$198,540	0.4%
NIH Total	\$48,993,100	-\$995,907	\$47,997,193	-2.0%



NINR Budget Updates

March 2026, the OMB revised the FY 2027 President's Budget (PB) request to increase the NIH by \$4.667 billion to support additional research, including restoring the existence of the NINR in the FY 2027 President's Budget

FY 2027 President's Budget Request (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2026 Final	FY 2027 PB	\$ Change	Percent Change
NINR Total	\$198,540	\$138,385	-\$60,155	-30.3%
NIH Total	\$47,997,193	\$41,428,867¹	-\$6,568,326	-13.7%

¹ The NIH Total FY 2027 PB level shown here differs from the FY 2027 PB level reported in the FY 2027 Congressional Justification (CJ) due to mandatory transfers



NINR Budget Updates

Administrative Updates



NINR is a team player

- Hiring key positions
- Communications coordination with OD





NIH Updates

NIH OD Leadership Staffing Updates

Joining NIH OD

Dr. Elisabeth Armstrong

Chief of Staff

Caitrin Shuy

Deputy of Strategy

Office of the Director

NIH Leadership Staffing Updates

Departing ICO Directors

Dr. Bruce Reed

Acting Director

Center for Scientific Review

Dr. Alison Cernich

Acting Director

National Institute of Child Health and
Human Development

New ICO Directors

Dr. Ray Jacobson

Acting Director

Center for Scientific Review

Dr. Rohan Hazra

Acting Director

National Institute of Child Health and
Human Development

Dr. Jonathan M. Green

CEO

NIH Clinical Center

NIH's Path to a Simpler Funding Opportunity Landscape



- Reduction in NOFOs
- Introduction of Highlighted Topics
- Increased investigator-initiated science
- Provides greater flexibility to researchers
- Reduces administrative complexity across NIH

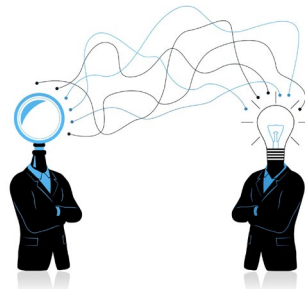


Consolidated ICO Profiles



Centralized ICO Information

Consolidates mission statements, research priorities, and funding details for all NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices



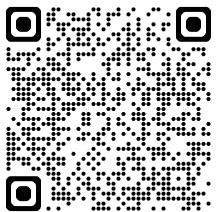
Enhanced Research Alignment

Helps align proposals with ICO missions, improving transparency and strategic application efficiency

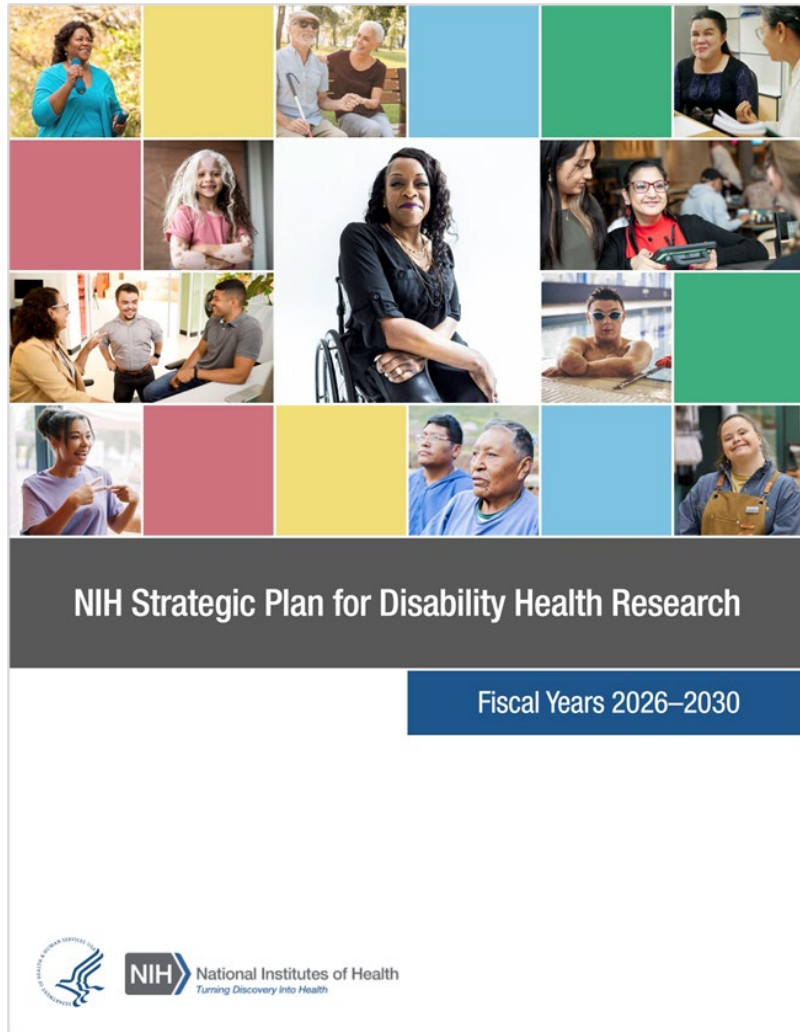


Funding Opportunities & Policies

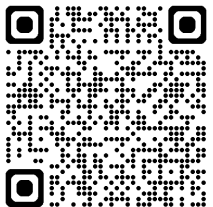
Highlights detailed funding opportunities, policies, and NIH Guide notices, assisting researchers in proposal planning



NIH-Wide Disability Health Research Strategic Plan



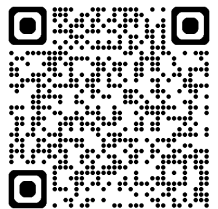
- The inaugural ***NIH Strategic Plan for Disability Health Research FY26-FY30*** was released on March 26th
- Four strategic goals: Research, Resources & Infrastructure, Workforce, and Stewardship
- For more information, visit: <https://dpcpsi.nih.gov/disabilityhealthresearch/strategicplan>



FY27-FY31 NIH-Wide Strategic Plan RFI

- NIH is seeking public input on the NIH-Wide Strategic Plan framework for 2027–2031 <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-047.html>
- The plan guides the agency's overarching research investments, policies, and operations for the next 5 year
- Inputs is requested on areas including but not limited to:
 - Priority 1: Research Areas
 - Priority 2: Research Capacity
 - Priority 3: Research Operations

Due Date: May 26



Youth Participatory Action Research – Input Requested

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) invites public input on ways to promote greater use of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) in prevention research.

Comments are encouraged from

- youth
- youth-serving organizations
- schools and educational institutions
- public health organizations
- researchers
- others interested in YPAR and prevention research

Responses are due by July 16, 2026

To submit a response, go to

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-065.html>





Policy Updates

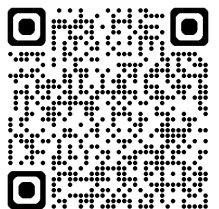
Inform NIH's Draft Policy for Sharing Summary Level Study Results to Participants

NIH is interested in hearing comments on:

- What to include in summary level study results shared with participants
- How to share summary level study results with participants
- When to share summary level study results with participants

Comment submission portal open until Summer 2026

Summary Level Study Results Policy Development Timeline



Policy Updates



Updated Elements of an NIH Data Management and Sharing Plan

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-046.html>

- DMS Policy remains in effect
- Format and required elements have changed



Prior Approval Requirement for Changes to Domestic Subawards

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-062.html>



Update of NIH Late Application Submission Policy and End of Continuous Submission

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-064.html>

- Continuous Submission is ending
- Revised conditions for late application submission



Policy Updates Continued



Continuation of Modifications to Peer Review Practices

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-069.html>

- Modification made due to missed peer reviews still in place
- Reduced number of discussed applications
- Simplified summary statements



Basic Experimental Studies in Humans (BESH) Will No Longer Be Considered Clinical Trials by the NIH

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-032.html>

- BESH specific NOFOs will expire
- Effective for due dates starting May 25, 2026



Policy Updates Continued



Upcoming System Enforcement of Common Forms and End of NIH's Leniency Period <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-079.html>

- Common forms for biographical sketch and current and pending (other) support required
- Effective May 8, 2026



NIH Removing AIDS Application Due Dates from NOFOs <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-029.html>

- All HIV/AIDS applications will use standard due dates
- Effective for Advisory Council Reviews beginning January 2027





THANK YOU!

NINR's opportunity is to lead nursing science that moves from evidence to action producing solutions that are rigorous, usable, and responsive to the settings where health is shaped