



UNLOCKING
THE POWER OF
**NURSING
RESEARCH**
TO IMPROVE LIVES

Director's Update

Courtney F. Aklin, PhD
Acting Director



September 9, 2025



National Institute
of Nursing Research



Future Council Meetings



Jan. 27, 2026



May 19, 2026



Sept. 15, 2026



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NINR Updates



September 9, 2025

NINR Mission

“To lead nursing research to solve pressing health challenges and inform practice and policy—optimizing health for all.”



Research Lenses



Optimize health for all by addressing differences in distribution of health and disease



Identify effective approaches to improve health and well-being by addressing the conditions in which people are born, grow, learn, play, live, and age



Identify and address pressing health challenges within and across populations and communities



Intervene at multiple levels to prevent and manage chronic and other diseases to promote health



Address the holistic needs of individuals, families, and communities through effective clinical and organizational solutions that leverage nursing research to optimize care delivery

Optimize health for all by addressing differences in distribution of health and disease

Research should seek to understand and intervene on factors that limit the optimization of health across and within populations.

Can involve...

- Examination of **contributing factors, pathways, and mechanisms** that influence health and well-being
- **Intervention and implementation research** using multiple study designs
- **Engaging and empowering communities** in the research process



Identify effective approaches to improve health and well-being by addressing the conditions in which people are born, grow, learn, play, live, and age

Research under this lens seeks to protect or improve health by addressing the conditions of daily life (e.g., education, housing, food, healthcare).

Can involve...

- Examination of **causal pathways and mechanisms** through which the conditions of daily life influence health
- Studies focusing on **social risks and protective factors** that are downstream effects of higher-level conditions of daily life



Identify and address pressing health challenges within and across populations and communities

Research should seek to understand and intervene on factors that limit the optimization of health across and within populations.

Can involve...

- Etiologic studies identifying risk and protective factors shaping population/community health
- Applied and translational approaches, including intervention research
- Partnership with communities



Intervene at multiple levels to prevent and manage chronic and other diseases to promote health

Research under this lens focuses on reducing the burden of chronic and other diseases and improving and maintaining health while respecting differences in human experiences..

Can involve...

- Research along the continuum from primordial prevention to tertiary prevention
- Efforts facilitating behaviors that reduce risk, improve health, manage disease, and enhance well-being
- Investigating interventions, and strategies, and under what conditions they work



Address the holistic needs of individuals, families, and communities through effective clinical and organizational solutions that leverage nursing research to optimize care delivery

Studies examine how healthcare and health services are delivered to improve care across conditions, events, and contexts

Can involve...

- Designing new models or evaluating existing **models of care**
- Care **coordination and continuity of services**
- Interrogation of **obstacles to care**
- Approaches that are **person-centered and holistic**





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2025 Artificial Intelligence Bootcamp

June 2-3, 2025

Key Takeaways

Nursing's holistic perspective in the design, implementation, and evaluation of AI tools is critically important to ensure that AI works for the benefit of all.

Values-based and community-engaged strategies are important.

AI application in healthcare settings improves the effectiveness and efficiency of care and helps to understand and address community conditions.



**2025 Artificial Intelligence
Bootcamp**
June 2-3, 2025



Advancing Nursing Research to Support Healthy School Environments for All

June 11, 2025

Key Takeaways

To address critical evidence gaps and optimize health and educational outcomes for all youth:

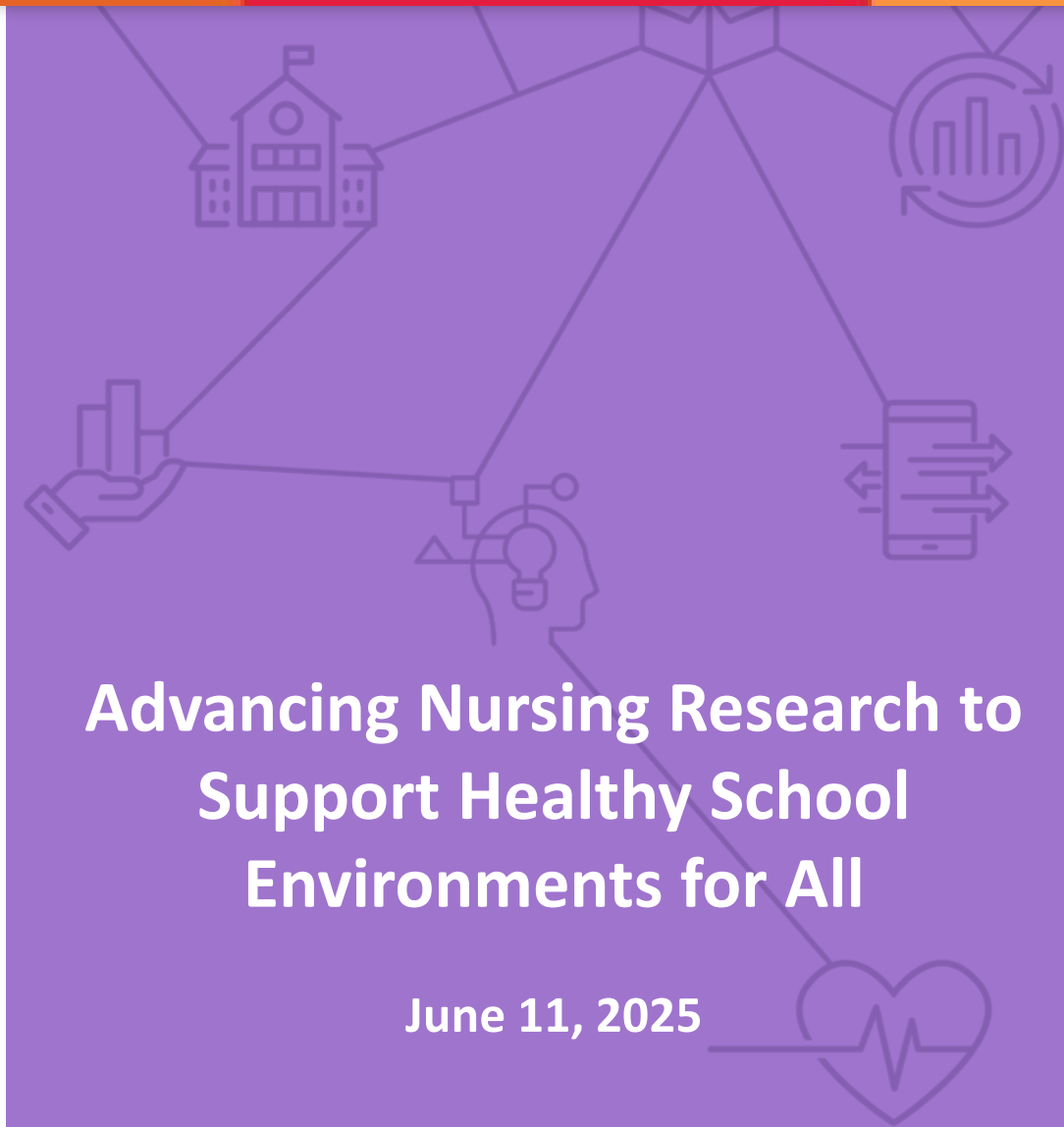
Leverage multi-disciplinary science

Build connections between school health research and practice

Address the complexity of demonstrating outcomes of school nursing and school health interventions

Capitalize on nurses as trusted professionals to engage families and youth

Consider impact of health of the school health workforce on youth outcomes



9/16: Early Stage Investigator Workshop
SDOH Research Institute: Faculty Convening

9/17: NINR's 40th Anniversary Symposium
Advancing Nursing Science to Improve Health for All:
NINR's Impact



Staff Updates

DESP Changes

Staff moving to CSR

- Dr. Weiqun Li, NINR Scientific Review Branch Chief
- Katie Rizak, Program Support

Staff staying within NINR under new position

- Dr. Joshua Wolff - New Program Director

Staff departing

- Dr. Sylvia Long leaves federal service



NINR Budget Updates

On March 15, 2025, the President signed H.R. 1968, the FY 2025 full-year continuing resolution (CR). This bill provides funding of \$48.5 billion in FY 2025 for NIH.

FY2025 NINR Full-Year CR	
Total	\$197.7M
NIH Total	\$48.5B



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NIH Updates



September 9, 2025



National Institute
of Nursing Research

Center for Scientific Review

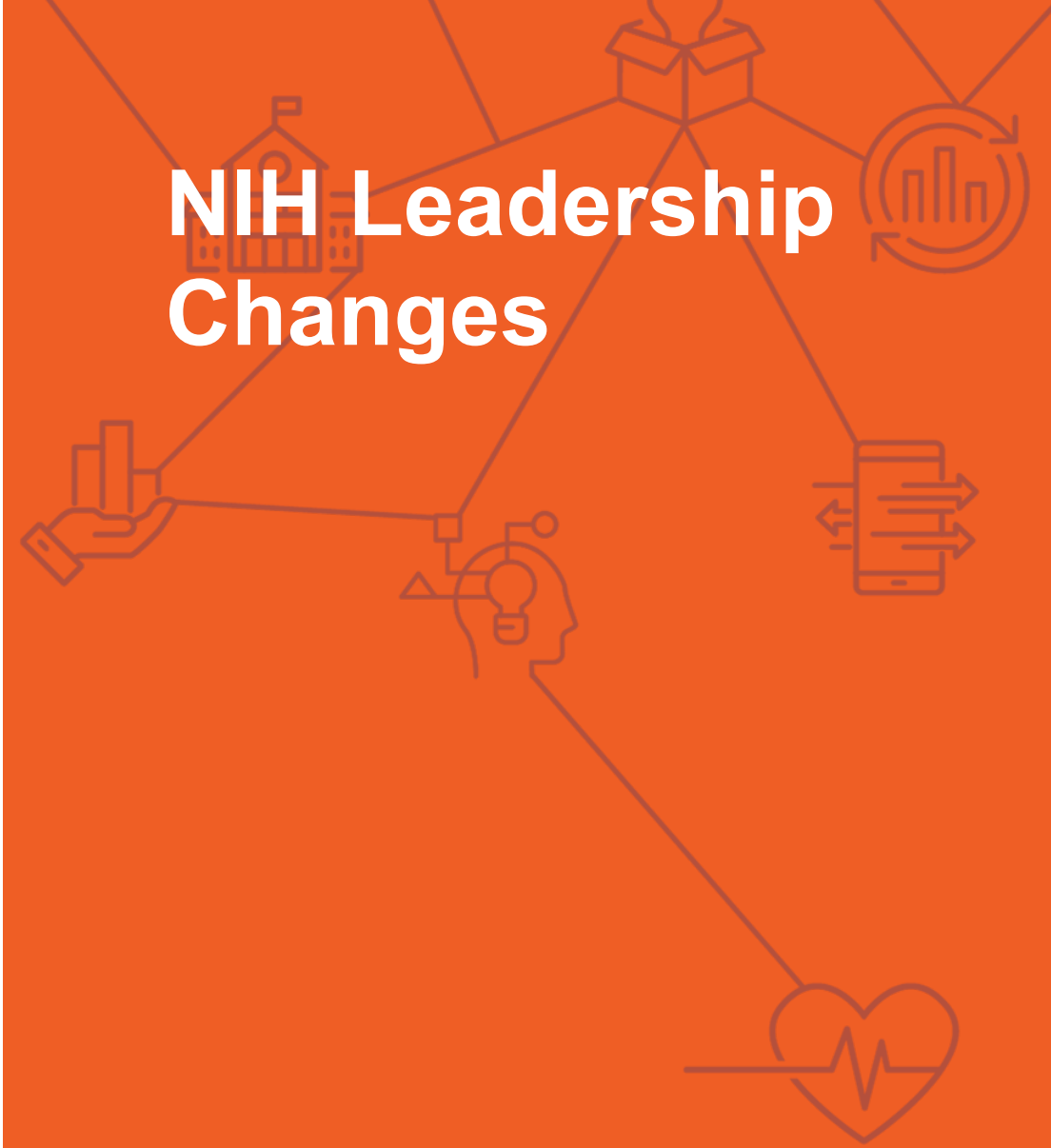


Dr. Noni Byrnes,
Director CSR Retires



Dr. Bruce Reed
Appointed Acting Director

NIH Leadership Changes



NIH-wide NOFO Reduction Initiative and Consolidation of Review

- NIH has move towards consolidated review; All first level of review now conducted at CSR rather than in individual ICs;
 - NIH has expired several IC specific NOFOs;
 - Increase efficiency
 - Reduce bias
 - Improve quality and consistency
 - Reduce confusion and reviewer burden.

New Resource: Highlighted Topics

NIH Funding - [Find a fit for your research highlighted topics](#)

Highlighted Topics Resource

- Informs the research community about NIH areas of scientific interest.
- Encourages investigator-initiated applications in those topic areas.
- May include new or emerging areas.
- Will expire after 1 year. NIH may extend.
- Help reduce NIH's use of funding opportunities by highlighting a topic instead (as appropriate).

Benefits for Research Community

- Reduce the effort to search and apply for funding opportunities.
- Apply through one of the [NIH Parent Announcements](#) or other broad NIH opportunities at Grants.gov.
- Search topics by keyword and filter by participating NIH Institutes, Centers, or Offices.
- Check back often for new topics and webpage features.

Learn more in the [August 2025 NIH Extramural Nexus article](#).

Supporting Fairness and Originality in NIH Research Applications (NOT-OD-25-132)

- NIH will not consider applications that are either **substantially developed by AI**, or **contain sections** substantially developed by AI, to be original ideas of applicants.
- NIH will **only accept six** new, renewal, resubmission, or revision applications **from an individual PI or MPI** for all Council rounds in **a calendar year**.

New Extramural Research Policies

- **August 7, 2025:** Update: No-Cost Extension Functionality in eRA
- **August 14, 2025:** NIH Will Stop Posting Notices of Funding Opportunities in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts in FY2026
- **August 24, 2025:** NIH Intramural Research Program Access Planning Policy Implementation Guidance
- **August 24, 2025:** NIH Intramural Research Program Access Planning Policy NIH Intramural Research Program Access Planning Policy Implementation Guidance

NIH Director Statements



[Leading By Example: Embedding Principles of Academic Freedom at NIH](#)

August 29, 2025 — NIH is adopting an agency-wide framework that embeds principles of academic freedom within our Intramural Research Program.



[Maximizing and Safeguarding NIH's Investment in Foreign Collaborations](#)

August 25, 2025 — NIH is establishing a set of fundamental principles to guide our research collaborations abroad.



[NIH Publishes Plan to Drive Gold Standard Science](#)

August 22, 2025 — Building on NIH's longstanding commitment to scientific integrity, this forward-looking plan incorporates the nine, interlocking tenets of gold standard science.



[Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy](#)

August 15, 2025 — NIH is moving toward a unified strategy that aligns our priorities and funding approaches to fulfill this commitment.

Dr. Bhattacharya's Priorities

STATEMENT Friday, August 15, 2025

Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy

[NIH Director Statements Advancing NIH Mission through Unified Strategy](#)

- Training Future Scientists
- Replication and Reproducibility
- Real-World Data Platform
- Artificial Intelligence
- Nutrition
- Autism Research
- Alternative Testing Models

- Health Outcomes Research
- Solutions-oriented health disparities research
- Foreign Research Oversight
- Evidence-based Transgender Youth Care
- HIV/AIDS



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Thank You



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