

PURSUIING SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH AT NIH: Opportunities and Strategies

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Introduction

G. Stephane Philogene, Ph.D.
Office of Behavioral & Social Sciences Research

**"We're from the
government and we're
here to help you."**



<http://www.nih.gov>

NIH Opportunities for Social Work Researchers

- What is NIH?
- What is OBSSR?
- Social Work Research Activities
- Current Funding Opportunity Announcements

What is NIH?



NIH's Mission is...

"...science in pursuit of fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability."

NIH's Goals are to...

1. Foster fundamental creative discoveries, innovative research strategies, and their applications as a basis to advance significantly the Nation's capacity to protect and improve health;

NIH's Goals are to...

2. Develop, maintain, and renew scientific human and physical resources that will assure the Nation's capability to prevent disease; and

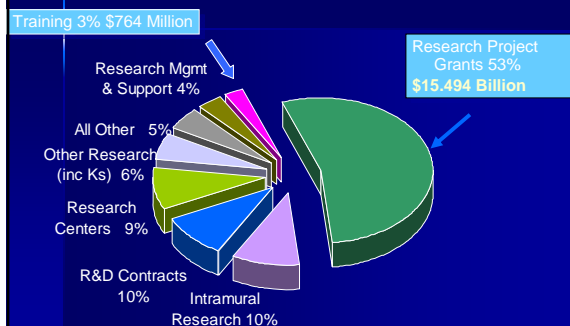
NIH's Goals are to...

3. Expand the knowledge base in medical and associated [e.g. behavioral & social] sciences in order to enhance the Nation's economic well-being and ensure a continued high return on the public investment in research.

National Institutes of Health Overview

- 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs)
- \$29 billion in FY2007
- 80% goes to grants and contracts supporting extramural research

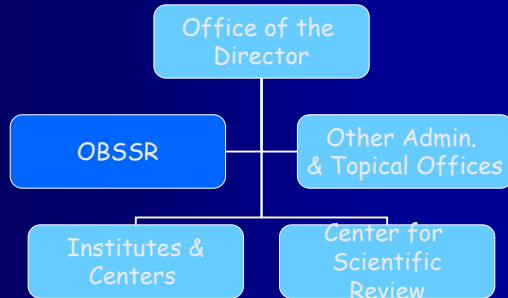
Total NIH Budget Authority – FY 2007 \$29 Billion



What's an OBSSR



National Institutes of Health



OBSSR Mission

- Increase scope of and support for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (BSSR)
- Inform NIH leadership and community about BSSR
- Represent NIH to BSSR community
- Disseminate BSSR information to NIH and the public

OBSSR's Vision

The vision of OBSSR is to mobilize the biomedical, behavioral, and social science research communities as partners to solve the most pressing health challenges faced by our society.

Programmatic Directions to Achieve the Vision:

- "Next generation" basic science
- Interdisciplinary research
- Systems-thinking approaches to health
- Problem-Based research

"Next Generation" Basic Science

OBSSR will support and facilitate the next generation of basic behavioral and social science research informed by breakthroughs in complementary areas such as genetics, informatics, and multilevel analyses.

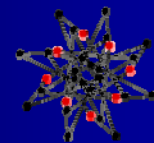
Interdisciplinary Research

OBSSR will facilitate collaborative research across the full range of disciplines and stakeholders necessary to fully elucidate the complex determinants of health and health systems challenges...

... such collaborations will yield new conceptual frameworks, methods, measures, and technologies that will speed the improvement of population health.

Systems-thinking Approaches to Health

OBSSR will stimulate research that integrates multiple levels of analysis – from cells to behavior to society – required to understand the ways in which individual and contextual factors interact to determine health status.



International Network for Social Network Analysis
www.inena.org/INSNA/na_bf.html

Problem-Based Research

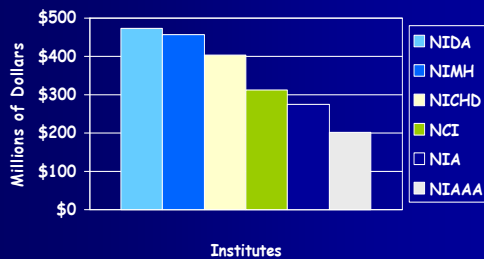
OBSSR will work with its NIH partners to identify problems in population health where behavioral and social scientists, biomedical researchers, practitioners, and health services decision makers can work together to develop prevention, treatment, and policy interventions and to accelerate their translation and adoption.

➔ A focus on outcomes

A New Vision

- Conduct interdisciplinary science
- Capitalize on new discoveries and new tools
 - Informatics
 - Computer technology
 - Genetics
- Build partnerships to solve problems whose scope overwhelms single research paradigms

NIH Funding for Behavioral & Social Sciences FY 2006 Estimates – Total \$3.03 billion



NIH/OBSSR Activities

- New OBSSR Strategic Prospectus
- NIH Plan for Social Work Research
 - Social Work Research
 - Research Infrastructure/Training
 - Information Dissemination and Community Outreach

NIH Plan for Social Work Research

Social Work Research

- Propose a new PA: Research on Social Work Practice and Concepts in Health
- Expand outreach to encourage grant applications on studies of SW practice and concepts
- Competitive Supplement for SW Research

NIH Plan for Social Work Research

Research Infrastructure/Training

- Develop and Implement an NIH Summer Institute on Social Work Research
 - Qualitative, and Mixed Method
 - Behavioral and Social Intervention Research
 - Community-Based Participatory Research

NIH Plan for Social Work Research

Information Dissemination and Community Outreach

- Outreach to Deans and Directors of Schools of SW
- Coordinated Outreach to Universities
- Trans-NIH Conference Showcasing SWR Results
- Explore the Possibility of a Conference on Advancing the SWR Agenda

OBSSR Planned Activities

- NIH Summer Institute on Social Work Research
- Trans-NIH Conference Showcasing SWR Results
- 8th Annual Summer Institute on Randomized Clinical Trials Involving Behavioral Interventions
- Reissue PAR to Support Community-Based Participatory Research

Examples of PAs: Research topics

- Community Participation in Research
- Research on Social Work Practice and Concepts in Health
- Research on Mind-Body Interactions and Health
- PAR on Health Disparities: Contributions of Behavioral and Social Sciences (R01 & R21)
- Health Disparities among Minority and Underserved Women
- Social and Cultural Aspects of Health

Examples of PAs: Research topics

- Behavioral and Social Research on Disasters and Health
- Structural Interventions
- Developmental Infrastructure for Population Research
- Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral and Social Sciences

How do I find out about FOAs?

- NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/index.html>
- BSSR Guide to NIH Grants & Contracts
http://obssr.od.nih.gov/Content/Research/BSSR_Guide_To_Grants_at_NIH/
An Electronic News Service for announcing NIH funding opportunities in the behavioral and social sciences.

Contact Information

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The Social Work Research Program Announcement

Denise Juliano-Bult, M.S.W.
National Institute of Mental Health

Research on Social Work Practice & Concepts in Health

(12/1/05)

- National Cancer Institute
- National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
- National Institute on Aging
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- National Institute on Child Health & Human Dev't
- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- National Institute of Mental Health
- National Institute of Nursing Research
- Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
- Office of Disease Prevention
- Office of Research on Women's Health

Background

SW is major provider of psychosocial interventions to:

- facilitate treatment of medical conditions
- improve disease management and prevention
- address related social, psychological or emotional issues to improve health and functioning

Biopsychosocial model, from systems theory:

- address physical, psychological & social conditions to optimize health and functioning

Background (con't)

The SW PA encourages research to:

- understand **mechanisms of action** in SW practice
- improve **efficacy and effectiveness** of SW interventions
- **disseminate and implement** exemplary practice approaches
- add **new component** to NIH IC portfolios and improve PH

NIH SW Research PA Specifics

★ Develop empirical research on SW practice, concepts and theory

- Relate these to the NIH public health goal of improving health outcomes for persons with medical and behavioral disorders and conditions

NIH SW Research PA (cont'd)

- Impact of SW services & interventions on outcomes, health behavior and treatment
- Adapt or develop new SW interventions:
 - screen, assess, treat or support treatment
 - improve access, quality & outcomes of care
 - behavior change, relapse prevention, co-morbidity
 - symptom mgt & functioning/rehabilitation
 - provider behavior change
 - improve care quality, coordination or delivery

NIH SW Research PA *(cont'd)*

- SW interventions in nontraditional health care delivery settings (e.g., school, work place, social services agencies, jails or prisons): coordination or integration across settings
- SW role in program implementation where health interventions are introduced, integrated into and sustained in community settings

Read the PA at:

<http://grants1.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-081.html> (R01)

★ <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-234.html> (R03)

★ <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-06-233.html> (R21)

R21 - 13 ⁽²⁾

Cancer - 2
Aging - 2
MH - 5
Alcohol - 1
Drug - 1
Child - 2

R01 - 6 ⁽¹⁾

Cancer - 1
Aging - 1
MH - 1
Alcohol - 1
Drug - 1
Nursing - 1

R03 - 5 ⁽²⁾

Cancer - 1
Aging - 1
MH - 2
Child - 2

10/07

Other Information:

- 29 submitted
- 22 reviewed
- 5 revised resubmissions
- number seeking TA ?
- number from established PIs ?
- fundable scores?: maybe

- Innovative; how will quantitative and qualitative data be combined
- Clearly written; no letters of support, does not address potential problems and their solution, does not address generalizability
- Innovative, excellent environment; needs better conceptual framework, is too ambitious

I was taught that the way of progress was neither swift nor easy.

Marie Curie

Conceptualizing a Project, Choosing a Mechanism & Working with NIH Staff

Peggy Murray, M.S.W.
(Doctoral Candidate)
NIAAA/NIH

The project should make sense
in the context of...

- The NIH
- The Science
- "Real World" Practice
- Your Capabilities
- Institute Priorities



Context of the NIH Mission:

- "...to acquire new knowledge to help prevent, detect, diagnose & treat disease and disability."
- To improve public health/clinical outcomes.

Context of the Science: Assess State-of-the Science

- Peer Reviewed Literature
- CRISP - <http://crisp.cit.nih.gov/>
- What credible tools are available?
 - Instruments, interventions, etc.
- What interim steps are necessary?
 - Validity, reliability, efficacy/effectiveness, implementation, etc.
- Current issues in community

Assess Your Own Research Capability



Studies, articles,
mentoring, training,
clinical experience,
etc.

Priority Areas for Institutes

- Special Reports
- PAs and RFAs
- Program Descriptions
- Talk to Program Staff

Types of Mechanisms

- R- Research Awards
 - R01, R03, R34, R21, R25
- K- Career Awards
 - K01, K02, K08, K23
- F - Fellowships
 - F31, F32, F33
- T - Training Grants
 - T32, T35



It is the job of NIH staff to....

help good research:

- get funded,
- be properly conducted and
- follow the law



Who Are the NIH Staff?

- Program Staff
- Scientific Review Staff
- Grants Management Staff



Program Staff

- Set research and scientific priorities
- Determine funding levels
- Administer research grants & contracts
- Communicate to the field
- *Advocate for the best science*

Grants Management

- Implement funding process
- Watch over budget
- Ensure compliance of grantee with Institute policies and regulations

Others Can Help...

- Your Office of Sponsored Research
- Other Researchers at Your Institution
- Senior Researchers in Your Field
- **All Research Is Collaborative**

Ethical Issues

Jerry Flanzer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of Research
San Jose State University
(formerly NIDA)

The Applicant's Responsibilities

- Local IRB Review
- Compliance
- PHS Form 398
- [Human Subjects]

The Three Legged Stool

- The Belmont Report
- Federal Regulations
45 CFR 46
- IRB – local site
- Human Subjects Protection



The Belmont Report/Regs

- **Autonomy** (Respect for the person) - Informed Consent
- **Beneficence** -- Risk Benefit Calculation
- **Justice** -- Equality of Subject Recruitment and Selection – Distributive Justice

Permission - Informed Consent

- **The Nuremberg Code:** the right to say "no" is the first right of a subject
- Permission of a duly informed volunteer is required unless the IRB says otherwise
- Volunteers not of legal age (state law) for the intended procedure must also grant permission (kids "assent", parents permit)
- Definitions of consent and assent

The Revised 398/424

- No Human Subjects
 - * Human subjects but exempt (existing data, data that cannot identify individuals)
 - * Human subjects claiming any other exemption
- Clinical Research
- Clinical Trials
- Phase III Clinical Trial

The Regulations

- **Common Rule** (Subpart A)
- **Subpart B** – additional protections – fetuses, pregnant women, in vitro fertilization
- **Subpart C** – prisoners as subjects
- **Subpart D** – children as subjects

Related Issues

- Certificates of Confidentiality
- Public Use Data Sets
- Archived/Previously Collected Data
- HIPPA
- Joint research: FDA – NIH – SAMHSA (e.g.: drug treatment) – ED (FERPA) – Bureau of Prisons

Oversight: Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)

- A local and objective review panel
- Voting members are free of conflict
- Suitably composed for subject context
- Competent to review science & ethics
- Adequate in number & composition
- Definitions of IRB & Local Review

Delays in IRB Processing

- Lack of information from the Investigator
- Adversarial relationship between IRB & Investigator/Sponsor
- Vulnerable subjects (women, children, prisoners, newly diagnosed, genomics, HIV)
- Institutional concerns about liability

Student Learning, Theses & Dissertations: The Ethical Murk

1. Point to learn the Process
2. IRBs are Idiosyncratic
3. Identifying Risk to Participants vs Benefits to Students

Point - to Learn the Process

(Student issue -1)

- Dealing with Human subject concerns and the IRB essential to the research learning process.
- All subjects must be consented! –no matter what!
- Does the research add value/ it significant in itself?
- Is the research internal (academic) or does it interface with the community?
- Is the desired outcome to learn or is it the end product?- may lead to different review process

-Most IRBs do not want to waste time and have invented a pseudo process (chair?/IRB manager)? for the learning and/or in-house academic research' community research or product focused research full IRB process.

IRBs are Idiosyncratic

(Student issue -2)

- IRBs are local
- There is no clear universal guidance
- Role of chair of IRBs differs around the country
- Some IRBs are in-house/ some are contracted
- I.O.s – Organization of Institutional officials

Risk to Participants vs Benefits

(Student issue -3)

- Most student research benefits students and not the participants – the consent process must note that
- What about risk to the institution/the university?

Data and Safety Monitoring Boards (DSMBs)

- DSMB is an independent committee set up specifically to monitor data throughout the duration of a study to determine if continuation of the study is appropriate scientifically and ethically !

More help:

- **OBSSR “Protection of Participants in Behavioral & Social Sciences Research”**
<http://obssr.od.nih.gov/IRB/protect.htm>
- **Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP:)** <http://ohrp.osophs.dhhs.gov>
- **NHGRI Ethical, Legal & Social Issues Program** <http://www.nhgri.nih.gov/ELSI>
- **Title 45 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 46, Protection of Human Subjects**

IOM/NAS Reports

Responsible Research: A Systems Approach to Protecting Research Participants (2003)

Protecting Participants and Facilitating Social and Behavioral Sciences Research (2003)

Ethical Conduct of Clinical Research Involving Children (2004)

QUESTIONS?