

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, March 30, 1993

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16 Vanguard Centers Selected To Launch Landmark Women's Health Research Studies

The National Institutes of Health today announced the selection of 16 "Vanguard Clinical Centers" for NIH's Women's Health Initiative, a massive national research effort to learn more about women's health.

The work of the 16 university medical programs selected will be a part of NIH's Women's Health Initiative -- planned as a 15-year, \$625 million study, the largest clinical trial ever undertaken in the United States.

"The work of this project is overdue," said HHS Secretary Donna E. Shalala. "This Initiative is a first step toward equity for women's health research, and it needs to be followed-up by ensuring the place of women's health in the mainstream of biomedical research."

The Vanguard Clinical Centers will link sites in 15 states to implement the Women's Health Initiative, which will involve more than 160,000 women ages 50 to 79.

NIH Director Bernadine Healy, M.D., said, "Today, we are entering a new age in women's health research. In terms of medical research, women have been ignored too long. These Vanguard Clinical Centers will play a pivotal role in NIH's commitment to include women in medical research and gather vital data to help prevent the major problems that afflict older women."

The study will focus on the causes and prevention of heart disease, cancer and osteoporosis, diseases that are major causes of death and disability among women. It will examine, through clinical trials or observational studies, the effects of a low-fat diet in preventing breast and colorectal cancer and heart disease; the benefits and the risks of hormone-replacement therapy in preventing cardiovascular disease and osteoporotic fractures; and the effects of calcium and vitamin D supplements in preventing osteoporotic fractures and colorectal cancer.

(Continued)

The 16 VANGUARD CENTERS ANNOUNCED TODAY:

The Bowman Gray School of Medicine
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

Brigham and Women's Hospital
Department of Medicine
Boston, Massachusetts

Emory University School of Medicine ●
The Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center
Atlanta, Georgia

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center *
Seattle, Washington

Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island
Division of Health Education
Pawtucket, Rhode Island

Northwestern University Medical School
Department of Preventive Medicine
Chicago, Illinois

State University of New York at Buffalo
Department of Social and Preventive Medicine
Buffalo, New York

University of Alabama at Birmingham ●
Birmingham, Alabama

University of Arizona ●
The Arizona Disease Prevention Center
at the University of Arizona College of Medicine
Tucson, Arizona

* The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center is also the Clinical
Coordinating Center for the Women's Health Initiative

● Denotes Vanguard Clinical Centers that will primarily recruit minority
participants

Vanguard Clinical Centers Continued:

University of California, Davis
School of Medicine
Department of Internal Medicine
Davis, California

University of California, San Diego ●
School of Medicine
Department of Family and Preventive Medicine
La Jolla, California

University of Iowa
College of Medicine
Department of Preventive Medicine and
Environmental Health
Iowa City, Iowa

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
New Jersey Medical School
Newark, New Jersey

University of Minnesota Medical School
Minneapolis, Minnesota

University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

University of Tennessee - Memphis
Prevention Center
Memphis, Tennessee

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