

The following NIH Institutes, Centers, and program coordination offices within the Office of the Director participate in the OppNet initiative.

- **FIG** John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences
- **NCI** National Cancer Institute
- **NCCAM** National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- **NCRR** National Center for Research Resources
- **NEI** National Eye Institute
- **NHLBI** National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
- **NHGRI** National Human Genome Research Institute
- **NIA** National Institute on Aging
- **NIAAA** National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- **NIAID** National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- **NIAMS** National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases
- **NIBIB** National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering
- **NICHD** Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
- **NIDCD** National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
- **NIDCR** National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
- **NIDDK** National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
- **NIDA** National Institute on Drug Abuse
- **NIEHS** National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- **NIGMS** National Institute of General Medical Sciences
- **NIMH** National Institute of Mental Health
- **NIMHD** National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
- **NINDS** National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
- **NINR** National Institute of Nursing Research
- **NLM** National Library of Medicine
- **OAR** Office of AIDS Research
- **OBSSR** Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
- **ODP** Office of Disease Prevention
- **ORWH** Office of Research on Women's Health

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network (OppNet) is a trans-NIH initiative to expand the agency's investment in basic behavioral and social science research (b-BSSR). OppNet's mission is to strengthen b-BSSR at NIH while innovating beyond existing investments. The members of OppNet are working to integrate existing NIH efforts, target research challenges and collaborate on new research initiatives.

NIH defines b-BSSR as a field that "furthers our understanding of fundamental mechanisms and patterns of behavioral and social functioning, relevant to the Nation's health and well-being, and as they interact with each other, with biology, and the environment." NIH groups b-BSSR into three categories:

- **Behavioral and Social Processes:** Examples include sensation, perception, emotion, motivation, vulnerability and resilience, attention, learning and memory, ingestive, sexual and aggressive behaviors, language development, social influences and social cognition, family processes and social networks, sociocultural and environmental processes, and population dynamics.
- **Biopsychosocial Research:** Examples include gene by environment interactions, behavior genetics, behavioral, cognitive, social and economic neurosciences, psychoneuroimmunology, psychopharmacology, behavioral cardiology, social networks and the spread of vectors of disease.
- **Methodology and Measurement:** Examples include methods for analyzing complex dynamic systems, application of information technologies to data collection and measurement, statistical modeling techniques, development of innovative research designs (e.g., multi-method, multi-informant designs), methods to reduce sampling, survey, and item non-response bias in research studies, behavioral observation procedures, qualitative and ethnographic methods, and development of new measurement procedures for behavioral, neuropsychological, and social phenomena.

ABOUT OPPNET

Twenty-four Institutes and Centers and four Program Offices within the Office of the Director fund and manage OppNet. OppNet's budget began in Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 with \$12 million. The budget increases to \$20 million in FY 2011 and to \$30 million per year in FYs 2012 through 2014.

OppNet's first set of initiatives supplement existing NIH projects by adding b-BSSR components, using the competitive revision mechanism. To increase b-BSSR capacity and foster the development

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of transdisciplinary teams involving basic behavioral and social science researchers, OppNet is supporting mentored career development (K18) awards for mid-career and senior investigators.

As part of its strategic planning process, OppNet sought input from the extramural community to identify challenges, opportunities, and to recommend priorities for b-BSSR funding at NIH. Respondents suggested that NIH support research in specific scientific areas, provide training in these areas, develop shared resources to support such research, and support improvements in methodology and measurement in the behavioral and social sciences. Several scientific themes emerged from the responses, including:

- Decision making
- Cognitive and emotional processes
- Social, personality and cultural factors
- Health behaviors and disparities
- The intersection between behavior and gene/environment interactions
- Lifespan/developmental perspectives
- Psychosocial stress
- Sleep and circadian rhythms
- Neurobiology/neuropsychology

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit OppNet's Web site for comprehensive information regarding this trans-NIH initiative, its members, frequently asked questions, funding opportunities and its latest news: <http://oppnet.nih.gov/index.asp>. To develop your b-BSSR research agenda for NIH funding, contact the NIH program director whose research interests correspond closely with your own: <http://oppnet.nih.gov/about-members.asp>.

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