

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

# TRANS-NIH PLAN FOR HIV-RELATED RESEARCH

Office of AIDS Research

National Institutes of Health

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services



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Dedicated to the memory of **DR. STEPHEN E. STRAUS** 

Founding Director of the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Senior Advisor to the NIH Director, and Senior Investigator in the Laboratory of Clinical Investigation at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

A courageous and compassionate physician, scientist, leader, and friend

November 23, 1946 - May 14, 2007

### Contents

Foreword	
Legislative Mandate	iii
OVERVIEW	1
CHAPTER 1: Foundational Research	
Natural History and Epidemiology	15
Etiology and Pathogenesis	27
CHAPTER 2: Prevention Research	
Microbicides	41
Vaccines	49
Behavioral and Social Science	67
CHAPTER 3: Therapeutics Research	
Therapeutics	81
CHAPTER 4: Research Support and Dissemination	
Training, Infrastructure, and Capacity Building	105
Information Dissemination	
CHAPTER 5: Research Related to Specific Populations	
Women and Girls	117
Racial and Ethnic Populations	131
Research in International Settings	135
PLANNING GROUPS	. 155
APPENDICES	
NIH Institutes and Centers	191
List of Acronyms	193

#### **Foreword**

I am pleased to present the Fiscal Year 2009 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research. I am grateful for the contributions and collaboration of many individuals who worked with us to develop this Plan. I thank the Directors of the NIH Institutes and Centers and their staffs; researchers from academia and industry; representatives from both domestic and international foundations and nongovernmental organizations; community representatives; representatives of other governmental agencies; and members of the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council for their participation in the development of and thoughtful contributions to this document.

The overarching structure of the AIDS research plan is based on the need for: a strong foundation of basic science; research to prevent and reduce HIV transmission, including microbicides, vaccines, and behavioral interventions; research to develop better therapies for those who are already infected; research related to specific populations, including research related to women and girls; research in international settings; research targeting the disproportionate impact of AIDS on racial and ethnic populations in the United States; and research support and information dissemination.

This year we also have defined two critical research priorities that transcend the entire AIDS research portfolio: (1) prevention of acquisition and transmission of HIV, and (2) prevention and treatment of HIV-associated comorbidities, comortalities, and coinfections. These priorities represent the areas of research that will be targeted for new or reallocated funding in the development of the NIH AIDS research budget.

The Fiscal Year 2009 Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research defines the scientific challenges that lie before us. It will assist OAR to enhance trans-NIH collaboration and ensure that research dollars are invested in the highest priority areas of scientific opportunity that will lead to new tools in the fight against AIDS.

Jack Whitescarver, Ph.D.

NIH Associate Director for AIDS Research and Director, Office of AIDS Research

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October 2007

### Legislative Mandate

The National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-43) provided that the Director of the Office of AIDS Research (OAR) "shall plan, coordinate and evaluate research and other activities conducted or supported" by the NIH. The Director of OAR "shall act as the primary Federal official with responsibility for overseeing all AIDS research conducted or supported by the National Institutes of Health" and "shall establish a comprehensive plan for the conduct and support of all AIDS activities of the agencies of the National Institutes of Health...; ensure that the Plan establishes priorities among the AIDS activities that such agencies are authorized to carry out; ensure that the Plan establishes objectives regarding such activities...; and ensure that the Plan serves as a broad, binding statement of policies regarding AIDS activities of the agencies, but does not remove the responsibility of the heads of the agencies for the approval of specific programs or projects, or for other details of the daily administration of such activities, in accordance with the Plan." The law further provides that "the Director of the OAR shall ensure that the Plan provides for basic research; provides for applied research; provides for research that is supported and conducted by the agencies; provides for proposals developed pursuant to solicitations by the agencies and for proposals developed independently of such solicitations; and provides for behavioral research and social science research."