



National Institute of
General Medical Sciences



Erica Brown, Ph.D.
Acting Director
National Institute of
General Medical
Sciences

September 10, 2026

National Advisory General Medical Sciences Council

Director's Report

Council Updates

Outgoing Members

Natalie Ahn, Ph.D.

Distinguished Professor

Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs

University of Colorado at Boulder



Lesilee S. Rose, Ph.D.

Professor

University of California, Davis



Outgoing Members

Donald K. Warne, M.D., M.P.H.

Professor

Co-director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health



Leyte Winfield, Ph.D.

Professor and Division Chair for the Natural Sciences and
Mathematics (NSM)

Director of the Cosmetic Science Program

Co-Director of the Internal Steering Committee, Center of
Excellence for Minority Women in STEM Chemistry and
Biochemistry
Spelman College



Welcome Incoming Members!

- Sharon Amacher, Ph.D.
- Jonathan (Josh) E. Baker, Ph.D.
- Julie A. Bastarache, MD
- Sudha Chakrapani, Ph.D.
- Stephen J. Cutler, Ph.D.*
- Melinda K. Duncan, Ph.D.
- Neil K. Garg, Ph.D.
- Elizabeth R. Gavis, M.D., Ph.D
- Brent L. Iverson, Ph.D.
- Laurie Kilpatrick, Ph.D.
- L. Andrew Lee, Ph.D.
- Gerald R. Marschke, Ph.D.
- Sarah L. Michel, Ph.D.
- Lucy O'Brien, Ph.D.

***Ad hoc* Participants**

Matthew Beyersdorf, J.D., Ph.D.

Director of Intellectual Property
BioNTech



Erin Dolan, Ph.D.

Georgia Athletic Association Professor of Innovative
Science Education
Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor
Undergraduate Affairs Director for the Life Sciences
University of Georgia



Early Career Investigator *Ad hoc* Participants

Anum Glasgow, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular
Biophysics
Columbia University



Emily Spaulding, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
The George Wojtech Endowed Chair in Neurobiology
MDI Biological Laboratory



NIGMS Staffing Updates

NIGMS Staffing Losses and Recruitments

- Vacancies – 53 staff members; 26% of Institute
- Current recruitments – 29
- Future recruitments (pending approval) - 24

NIH Policy Updates

NOT-OD-26-094: NIH Is Replacing Letters of Support with Letters of Collaboration

- Effective with implementation of Forms J in FY 2027.
- Letters of support will be replaced with letters of collaboration to reduce administrative burden.
- Limited to stating the intent to collaborate or provide material support described in the application; may not include endorsements, additional project information, or evaluations and must not exceed 100 words.
- Stay tuned for implementation guidance! (including institutional letters)

NOT-OD-26-101: USG Policy for Stopping High-Risk Life Sciences Research

- Establishes a new policy that identifies two categories of highest-risk life sciences research:
 - Dangerous gain-of-function (DGOF) research
 - International research of concern (IROC)
- Prohibits federal support for DGOF research and research conducted in or involving countries or entities of concern; establishes additional risk-based oversight and restrictions for other high-risk life sciences research, including international research in countries with inadequate oversight.
- NIH is developing implementation guidance and resources. Research previously identified as potential DGOF remains paused until NIH-specific implementation requirements are established.

Other NIH Policy Updates

- **NOT-OD-26-090:** HHS will no longer accept more than nine new and resubmission Phase I, Fast-Track, and Direct to Phase II SBIR/STTR applications or proposals from a small business per fiscal year. The limit applies to competing submissions with due dates on or after April 13, 2026.
- **NOT-OD-26-100:** NIH is updating the Data Management and Sharing Plan requirements starting in FY 2027. Institutions with applicable NIH awards will report plan changes and progress through the RPPR, and prior approval will no longer be required for revisions.
- **NOT-OD-26-097:** Beginning in FY 2026, NIH strengthened requirements for addressing harassment, bullying, retaliation, and hostile working conditions involving PD/PIs and senior/key personnel. Recipient institutions must complete related investigations even if the individual leaves the institution, and NIH may decline transfer of an award when concerns remain unresolved.

NIH Requests for Information and Comment

- **NOT-OD-26-095:** Invites input on potential funding models that would allow mentored K award recipients to lead clinical trials as PIs using funding separate from their K awards. **Responses are due by September 30, 2026.**
- **NOT-OD-26-088:** Proposes changes to reporting peer review outcomes, including replacing numerical overall impact scores with three overall impact categories aligned with the Unified Funding Strategy. **Responses are due by October 13, 2026.**
- **NOT-OD-26-112:** Presents a draft policy to modernize and strengthen biosafety oversight, broaden coverage to biohazards, and replace the current NIH Guidelines for recombinant or synthetic nucleic acid research. **Responses are due by October 19, 2026.**
- **NOT-OD-26-113:** Presents a draft policy requiring summary-level study results from NIH-supported clinical research to be shared with participants and invites feedback on areas where supplemental guidance would enable successful implementation. **Responses are due by October 26, 2026.**

Finding NIGMS Funding Priorities

Funding

← | [Back to Find a Fit for Your Research](#)

NIH Institutes, Centers, and Offices ▾

Fogarty International Center (FIC)

NIH Brain Research Through
Advancing Innovative
Neurotechnologies® Initiative (BRAIN)

NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-
term® Initiative (HEAL)

National Center for Advancing
Translational Sciences (NCATS)

National Center for Complementary
and Integrative Health (NCCIH)

National Cancer Institute (NCI)

National Eye Institute (NEI)

National Human Genome Research
Institute (NHGRI)

National Heart, Lung, and Blood
Institute (NHLBI)

National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)

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Mission Statement

The NIGMS Mission is to support basic research that increases our understanding of biological processes and lays the foundation for advances in disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention. NIGMS also supports research in specific clinical areas that affect multiple organ systems: anesthesiology and peri-operative pain; clinical pharmacology common to multiple drugs and treatments; and injury, critical illness, sepsis, and wound healing. NIGMS-funded scientists investigate how living systems work at a range of levels—from molecules and cells to tissues and organs—in research organisms, humans, and populations. Additionally, to ensure the vitality and continued productivity of the research enterprise, NIGMS provides leadership in supporting the training of future scientists and developing research capacity throughout the country.

Interest Areas

General Topics

NIGMS supports fundamental research to uncover the basic principles, mechanisms, and processes that underlie living organisms, without a focus on specific diseases, organs, life stages, or populations. NIGMS also supports the development of fundamental methods and new technologies to achieve its mission. Supported research may utilize specific cells or organ systems if they serve as models for understanding general principles. Research with the overall goal to gain knowledge about a specific organ or organ system or the pathophysiology, treatment, or cure of a specific disease or condition will, in most cases, be more appropriate for another institute or center.

Scientific Topics

- Multi-scale computational modeling, bioinformatics, and biostatistics
- Technology development for biomedical research
- Biophysics of proteins, nucleic acids, membranes and their complexes
- Anesthesia, pain, drug metabolism, inflammatory responses, critical care, organ physiology, drug delivery, sepsis, and wound healing
- Cellular and molecular processes
- Chemical synthesis, catalysis, chemical probes, natural products, and glycosciences
- Cells and cellular component structure and function
- Mechanisms of inheritance
- Gene expression and development
- Clinical Trials (with limitations and further considerations) in:
 - anesthesiology
 - clinical pharmacology
 - injury and critical illness
 - sepsis
 - wound healing

Other Topics

- Research, infrastructure improvements, and research workforce development in states and institutions across the U.S. that do not receive high levels of NIH funding
- Training and biomedical research workforce development, including:
 - dual-degree clinician scientist research training
 - training opportunities at federally recognized Tribal entities
 - fellowship programs for clinician scientists
 - individual predoctoral and postdoctoral and institutional basic biomedical research training programs

Assistance Listing

Assistance listings are detailed public descriptions of federal programs used across government agencies that provide grants, loans, scholarships, insurance, and other types of assistance awards. They are maintained in the System for Award Management (SAM) and can be used to search for opportunities in [Grants.gov](#).

123 View NIGMS Assistance Listing Numbers

- [93,859](#) - Biomedical Research and Research Training

Highlighted Topics

Highlighted Topics identify timely or emerging research priorities across one or more NIH Institutes, Centers, or Offices (ICOs). Use [Parent Announcements](#) or other broad NIH opportunities to submit investigator-initiated applications on a topic. While Highlighted Topics do not affect referral or review, some include dedicated funding. See the [Highlighted Topic FAQs](#) for details.



Title	Lead ICO	Participating ICOs	Posted Date	Expiration Date
	All	All		
Environmental Contributors to Infertility	NIEHS	NIEHS, NICHD, NIGMS, ORWH, THRO	July 20, 2026	June 11, 2028
Quantum Information Science & Technologies for Biomedical Applications	NIBIB	NIBIB, BRAIN, NCATS, NCI, NEI, NHLBI, NIDCR, NIGMS, ODSS	April 29, 2026	April 9, 2028
Enhancing Scientific Rigor, Transparency and Replicability	NINDS	NINDS, AOU, ECHO, NCATS, NCCIH, NCI, NEI, NHGRI, NHLBI, NIA, NIAAA, NIAID, NIAMS, NIBIB, NICHD, NIDA, NIDCD, NIDCR, NIDDK, NIEHS, NIGMS, NIMH, NIMHD, NLM, OAR, OBSSR, ODP, ODS, ODSS, ONR, ORIP, ORWH, OSP	April 27, 2026	April 27, 2028
Advancing “Science of				

Funding Opportunities and Notices



Search for NIGMS's funding opportunities and notices

- [NIGMS Grant Funding Opportunity Participation](#)
- [NIGMS Notices in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts](#)

NIGMS Policy Considerations



All NIH ICOs follow a set of [NIH-wide policies](#). These ICO-specific considerations build on those policies.

- [NIGMS General Funding Policies](#)
- [NIGMS Clinical Trials](#)

Additional Information by Funding Category

Administrative Supplements

+

Conferences and Meetings

+

Individual Career Development

+

Individual Fellowship

+

Institutional Career Development

+

Institutional Training

+

Investigator-Focused Awards

+

Research Education

+

Research Projects

+

Small Business

+

Institutional Training

In addition to our [Institutional Training](#), consider the following NIGMS-specific information.

Institutional Training Interest Areas:

NIGMS prioritizes Institutional Training relevant to its [mission](#) in the areas described below. Training programs should be well integrated within one or more departments and have a strong, positive influence on the institution's research training and mentoring practices.

To promote broad geographic and organizational participation in rigorous training programs, NIGMS **strongly encourages** applications from:

- Institutions in [IDeA-eligible states](#)
- [HBCUs](#)
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), as defined under 25 U.S.C. 1603 (24).
- Resource-limited institutions that don't yet have NIH training programs.

Training Program Area

*Biomedical
Undergraduate
Research
Training (BURT) –
see program
specific NOFO.*

Program Goal

To strengthen research training environments and develop well-trained students who:

- Complete their baccalaureate degrees in biomedically-related fields, and
- Transition into and complete biomedical, research-focused higher

Additional Considerations

- Supports programs from 4-year institutions (single sites) or community-college partnerships with 4-year institutions.
- Provides research training opportunities to students from the breadth of biomedical disciplines at the organization.

Highlighted Topics (HTs)

- Describe potentially timely, new, and/or emerging research priority areas for one or more ICs for applicants to consider.
 - HTs may or may not have dedicated funding.
- NIH supports many types of research *beyond* the highlighted topics.
- Applications **must** be submitted to existing NOFOs
- Applicants are encouraged to consult with program staff early to discuss alignment of ideas with the HT.

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research/highlighted-topics>

NIGMS Funding Opportunity Updates

NIGMS Instrumentation Programs

- **Goal:** Expand access to state-of-the-art research instrumentation, to be used on a shared basis, that strengthens institutional capacity and supports NIH-funded research.
- **Strategy:** Offer distinct S10 grant programs tailored to institutions' resources and intended uses, including broad institutional access and capacity-building at resource-limited institutions.

Instrumentation NOFOs

- **PAR-27-068: NIGMS Mature Synchrotron Resources (MSR) for Structural Biology (P30)**
 - Continues support for NIGMS-funded mature synchrotron resources that provide state-of-the-art instrumentation, user training, technical support, outreach, and broad access to biomedical researchers.
- **PAR-27-067: Instrumentation Grant Program for Resource-Limited Institutions (RLIs)**
 - Expands access to instrumentation at eligible resource-limited institutions, including those with low NIH funding, award biomedical science degrees, and either have substantial Pell Grant enrollment or HBCU or TCU status.
 - Requires at least three major users; instruments may also support training or educational activities.
- **PAR-27-022: Shared Instrumentation Grant (SIG) Program**
 - NIH-wide, ORIP-led program open to all eligible institution and organization types.
 - Requires at least three NIH-funded major users; instrumentation limited to research use.*

*ORIP/DCI S10 Instrumentation Programs website: <https://orip.nih.gov/division-construction-instruments/s10-instrumentation-programs>

Website includes additional information and virtual S10 Office Hours, held Wednesdays from 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET.

NIGMS Technology Development Programs

- **Goal:** NIGMS is interested in areas of technology development that advance our mission and are not responsive to the mission of other disease-specific or organ-specific NIH Institutes or Centers.
- **Strategy:** Support multiple stages in the technology development pipeline via different mechanisms tailored to the needs of each stage.

Technology Development NOFOs

- **Tech Development RPGs:** Support prototype validation through iterative technology R&D/validation studies (stay tuned for concept clearance)
- **Parent R01 and R35s** apply new technologies to biological questions
- **PAR-27-024: Biomedical Technology Optimization and Dissemination Center (BTOD)**
 - Late-stage technology optimization for broad utility and self-sustaining dissemination.
 - As with previous NOFOs, supports the optimization and dissemination of late-stage biomedical technologies that have demonstrated laboratory feasibility.

NIGMS Small Business Programs

- **Goal:** Address complex and interdisciplinary research questions in:
 - i. basic research
 - ii. clinical areas that impact multiple organ systems
 - iii. biomedical workforce development or training through educational activities that may require additional resources
- **Strategy:** Use multiple grant mechanisms through the SBIR and STTR programs to fund technologies at different stages of development, including Phase I and Phase II awards, Phase IIB SBIR funding, and the Commercialization Readiness Pilot Program.

Small Business NOFOs

Recently released SBIR/STTR parent NOFOs:

- **PA-27-100: NIH, CDC, and FDA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant**
- **PA-27-102: NIH Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Grant**

Recently released targeted NOFOs:

- **PA-27-101: NIH SBIR Phase IIB Strategic Breakthrough Award**
 - Bridges the funding gap between the end of a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase II award and commercialization.
- **PAR-27-098: SBIR/STTR Commercialization Readiness Pilot Program**
 - Helps move NIH-funded SBIR or STTR projects from late-stage development to commercialization.

NIGMS Interest Areas for Small Business Applications

- **NIGMS encourages innovations in the following areas and related technologies:**
 - Analytical, Cell Culture, Biochemical Tools and Instrumentation
 - Chemical and Synthetic Biology
 - Clinical and Therapeutic Applications
 - Computational Sciences and Data Methods
 - Nucleic Acid and Genome Production, Characterization and Manipulation
 - Omics Technologies and Molecular Therapeutics
 - Structural Biology and Biophysical Methods
 - **Education and Workforce Development**

NIGMS Training and Workforce Development Programs

- **Goal:** Support promising future scientists in as many places as possible (*“anyone, anywhere”*) to foster a biomedical research enterprise that improves the health of all Americans (*“everyone, everywhere”*).
- **Strategy:** Promote opportunity across career stages, institution types, and regions (including IDeA states) through institutional training, individual fellowships, and student research experiences.

Institutional Training and Individual Fellowship NOFOs

- **NOT-GM-26-007: Changes to NIGMS Institutional Basic Biomedical and Clinician Scientist Training Programs**
 - For applications due on or after January 25, 2027, predoctoral basic biomedical training programs will use the Parent T32 and align with eight broader training areas. New postdoctoral clinician-scientist programs will transition from the T32 to the Parent K12.
- **PA-27-030: Institutional Mentored Career Development Award**
 - NIGMS will use the Parent K12 to support postdoctoral scientists through mentored research and career development activities that prepare them for research independence.
- **PA-27-037: Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Transition Award**
 - Provides up to five years of combined support for graduate students to complete doctoral research training and transition to mentored postdoctoral career development.

Restructuring of NIH Career Development Awards

- NIH is consolidating individual K award NOFOs into a smaller set of parent NOFOs organized by program type, beginning with applications due on or after October 12, 2027.

- **New Career Development (K) Award Framework:**

Award Name	New Code	Current Codes Covered
Mentored Research Scientist Career Development Award	KR1	K01, K21, K25, K32
Mentored Clinician Research Scientist Career Development Award	KC1	K08, K23, K38
Investigator Award to Support Mentoring of Early Career Clinician Scientists	KS1	K02, K07, K18, K24, K26
NIH Career Transition to Research Independence Award	KT1/R00	K99, K22

- **RFI (NOT-OD-26-095):** NIH is seeking input on potential funding models that would allow mentored K award grantees to lead clinical trials as PIs using funding separate from their K award. **Responses are due September 30, 2026.**
- See the NIH Extramural Nexus announcement for additional details.

NIGMS Research Education Programs

- **Goal:** Support research education programs across NIGMS mission areas for participants who would significantly benefit, particularly those with limited research experience, from resource-limited institutions, or facing barriers to biomedical research careers.
- **Strategy:** Use parent R25 mechanisms to fund research-enhancing education, including curricula, research experiences, and mentorship.
- **Program Update:** NOT-GM-26-010 announces the early expiration of PAR-24-252, Innovative Programs to Enhance Research Training (IPERT).
 - No further applications will be accepted – see parent R25s NOFOs on next slide.

Research Education NOFOs

- **PA-27-034: Courses, Curriculum & Methods**
 - Funds educational activities focused on skills-development courses and/or curriculum or methods development.
- **PA-27-036: Research Experiences**
 - Supports mentored research experiences and complementary skill-building activities tailored to participants' educational or career stages.
- **PA-27-035: Mentoring Activities & Networks**
 - Supports mentoring programs and networks that strengthen professional development skills, improve the quality of mentorship, and foster progression toward independent research careers.

NIGMS Research Capacity Building Programs

- **Goal:** Strengthen biomedical research capacity in states and institutions that historically have received lower levels of NIH funding, expanding opportunities across the biomedical research continuum.
- **Strategy:** Support multiple stages of capacity building, from development through expansion and sustainability with programs that strengthen research infrastructure, workforce development, and institutional capacity across IDeA-state institutions, resource-limited institutions, and federally recognized Tribes and Tribal entities.

Research Capacity Building NOFOs

- **PAR-27-054: COBRE – Development Phase (COBRE-D) (P30)**
 - Builds research capacity in broad scientific areas where an IDeA-eligible institution has limited infrastructure or expertise. Limited to IDeA-state institutions with no active COBRE grant.
- **PAR-27-055: COBRE – Expansion and Sustainability Phases (COBRE-E/S) (P30)**
 - COBRE-E expands established research capacity; COBRE-S supports long-term sustainability. Limited to eligible IDeA-state institutions meeting phase-specific COBRE requirements.
- **PAR-27-056: IDeA for Clinical & Translational Research (CTR) (P30)**
 - CTR-D develops clinical and translational research workforce and infrastructure; CTR-N expands statewide or multi-state research networks. Participating organizations must be in IDeA states.

Upcoming Informational Webinars

September Webinars

- **NIGMS Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence: Development Phase (COBRE-D) (P30)**
Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 3:00 - 4:30 PM (ET)
- **NIGMS IDeA for Clinical & Translational Research (CTR) (P30)**
Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 2:30 - 3:30 PM (ET)
- **NIGMS Training, Research Education and Career Development Programs (R25 and K12)**
Wednesday, September 16, 2026, 1:00 - 3:00 PM (ET)

Upcoming Informational Webinars

October Webinars

- **Instrumentation Grant Program for Resource-Limited Institutions (RLI-S10)**
Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 3:00 - 4:30 PM (ET)
- **NIGMS Small Business Program**
Monday, October 26, 2026, 1:00 - 2:00 PM (ET)
- **NIGMS Biomedical Technology Optimization and Dissemination (BTOD) Centers Program**
Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 3:00 - 4:30 PM (ET)
- **NIGMS Basic Biomedical Predoctoral T32 Training Programs**
Thursday, October 29, 2026, 2:30 - 4:00 PM (ET)

Current NIGMS HTs

- **NIGMS-led:**
 - Advancing “Science of Science” Research to Understand and Strengthen the Biomedical Research Ecosystem
- **NIGMS-participating:**
 - Quantum Information Science & Technologies for Biomedical Applications
 - Enhancing Scientific Rigor, Transparency and Replicability
 - Environmental Contributors to Infertility
- Subscribe for email alerts about new topics

**Questions?
Comments?**