

NIAMS Long-Range Plan: Fiscal Years 2010-2014



improving
health

through
discovery



National
Institute of
Arthritis and
Musculoskeletal and
Skin Diseases (NIAMS)



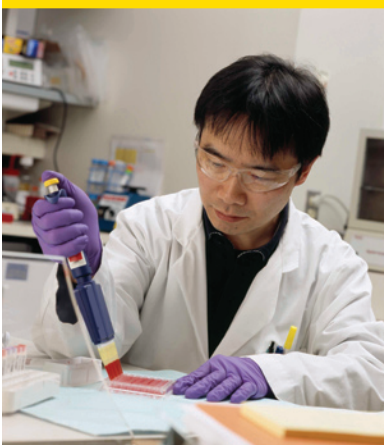
This is an extraordinary time for biomedical research and for NIH. Advances in knowledge and technology have shifted the ground beneath the research enterprise, as new combinations of scientists introduce us to a range of questions once unthinkable. The potential for artificial organs, person-tailored prescriptions, and community-targeted prevention strategies provides hope to those with disabling conditions that affect bones, joints, muscles, and skin. Once futuristic, such goals are now realistic, and each can be achieved by matching creative minds with the resources and intellectual freedom to make progress.

The NIAMS Long-Range Plan for Fiscal Years (FY) 2010–2014 is a tool, not a destination, for individual investigators to use their ingenuity to explore the unknown and confront these pressing problems.

Objective

The NIAMS Long-Range Plan for FY 2010–2014 brings attention to the many areas that researchers could consider, but not be limited to, as they pursue knowledge of and develop diagnostic, treatment, and prevention strategies for diseases within the NIAMS mission.

As a broad scientific outline for NIAMS, the long-range plan informs the Institute's priority-setting process, while enabling the Institute to adapt to the rapidly changing biomedical and behavioral science landscapes.



Overview

The long-range plan features five disease- and tissue-specific topics:

- Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases
- Skin Biology and Diseases
- Bone Biology and Diseases
- Muscle Biology and Diseases
- Musculoskeletal Biology and Diseases

Many diseases and conditions relevant to the NIAMS mission can be seen through a new lens using genome-wide analyses, new behavioral or biopsychosocial research methods, systems biology approaches, and new imaging modalities. Several themes thread through the plan, indicating areas of particular promise. They include epigenomics, gene therapy, immunomodulation, pharmacogenomics, stem cells, and tissue engineering.

In addition to these scientific themes, the plan also highlights needs and opportunities in **Health Disparities, Training and Career Development, Infrastructure, and Information Dissemination**—topics that are relevant to all research communities.



Activities to Eliminate Health Disparities

In addition to devoting a section of its long-range plan to Health Disparities Research, NIAMS works with the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities to implement aspects of the Center's **Strategic Plan to Reduce and Ultimately Eliminate Health Disparities** (<http://ncmhd.nih.gov>). NIAMS also delivers research results and health information to diverse populations through activities including its **National Multicultural Outreach Initiative** (http://www.niams.nih.gov/about_Us/Mission_and_Purpose/Community_Outreach/Multicultural_Outreach/).

NIAMS and NIH Training and Career Development Resources

For more examples, see

www.niams.nih.gov/About_Us/Mission_and_Purpose/long_range.asp

- **NIAMS and NIH Extramural Research and Training Programs**
http://www.niams.nih.gov/Funding/Funding_Opportunities and
<http://grants.nih.gov/training>
- **NIAMS Intramural Research and Training Programs**
[http://www.niams.nih.gov/Research/Ongoing_Research/ Branch_Lab/Science_and_Technology/Career_Development/](http://www.niams.nih.gov/Research/Ongoing_Research/Branch_Lab/Science_and_Technology/Career_Development/)
- **New and Early Stage Investigators**
http://grants.nih.gov/grants/new_investigators/

NIAMS- and NIH-funded Infrastructure and Research Resources

For more examples, see

www.niams.nih.gov/About_Us/Mission_and_Purpose/long_range.asp

- **NIAMS Resources for Clinical Research**
http://www.niams.nih.gov/Funding/Clinical_Research/
- **NIAMS Centers of Research Translation**
http://www.niams.nih.gov/Funding/Funding_Opportunities/
- **NIAMS Multidisciplinary Clinical Research Centers**
http://www.niams.nih.gov/Funding/Funded_Research/
- **National Center for Research Resources**
http://www.ncrr.nih.gov/scientific_resources/
- **Mouse Repositories and Databases**
<http://www.nih.gov/science/models/mouse/sharing/>
- **Molecular Libraries Program for High-throughput Screening**
<http://mli.nih.gov/mli/>
- **NIH Rapid Access to Interventional Development**
<http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/raid/>

Information Dissemination Efforts

NIAMS develops **health information materials** for patients, health care providers, and the public (<http://catalog.niams.nih.gov/>). Some are available as audio publications; some are in easy-to-read English-language formats; and others are for Spanish or Chinese speakers. NIAMS has CD-ROMs that contain print-friendly versions of many of its materials, which health professionals and patient organizations can print and distribute.

Community Input

The Institute is grateful to the hundreds of investigators, health care providers, and patient advocates who contribute to the Institute's scientific planning process for the benefit of the American people.

www.niams.nih.gov/About_Us/Mission_and_Purpose/long_range.asp

About NIAMS

The National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases, a component of the National Institutes of Health within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, supports research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases; the training of basic and clinical scientists to carry out this research; and the dissemination of information on research progress in these diseases.

Our Commitment

- NIAMS is committed to maintaining a balanced portfolio of outstanding research that reflects a broad spectrum of scientific opportunities and needs to improve public health.
- The Institute will continue to invest most of its extramural budget in the most outstanding investigator-initiated research applications.
- Other investments will be directed toward enabling or complementing investigator-initiated activities.

As a good steward of taxpayer dollars, NIAMS will continue to partner with other NIH Institutes and Centers to support meritorious research within its mission areas. It also will leverage resources, through collaborations with public and private organizations, to provide research opportunities that NIAMS would not be able to offer on its own.

For More Information

Information about NIAMS-supported scientific areas, including a list of staff contacts, is available through http://www.niams.nih.gov/Funding/Funding_Opportunities/Supported_Scientific_Areas/.



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Applying for Grants

NIAMS maintains a Web page of resources for investigators who are writing grant applications. Information at http://www.niams.nih.gov/Funding/Funding_Process/ includes:

Help for Investigators

- Getting Started at NIH
- Planning Your Application
- Grant Writing Tip Sheets
- How to Apply
- NIH New Investigators Program

NIH Grants Process

- Funding Decisions
- Application Basics
- Process Overview
- Award Management
- Policy and Guidance
- Information for New Grantee Organizations

Review of Grant Applications

- Review Process
 - Peer Review Policies and Practices
 - Resources for Applicants
 - Standard Due Dates for Completing Applications
- Study Sections
 - Review Group Descriptions
 - Study Section Rosters
 - Schedules for Scientific Review Group Meetings

Each year, once an appropriation has been received, NIAMS develops a **funding plan for research and training grants** and posts it at http://www.niams.nih.gov/About_Us/Budget. Many factors throughout the fiscal year can affect the Institute's operating policies, thus they are subject to change. For the most current information, check with an appropriate Institute official.