

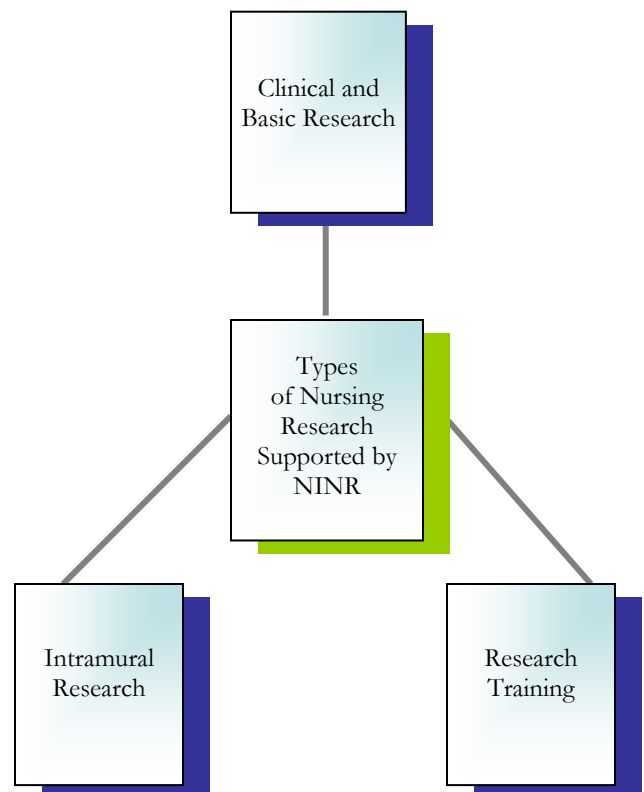
The new science advanced at the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) is integral to the future of the nation's healthcare system. Through grants, research training, and interdisciplinary collaborations, NINR addresses care management of patients during illness and recovery, reduction of risks for disease and disability, promotion of healthy lifestyles, enhancement of quality of life for those with chronic illness, and care for individuals at the end of life. NINR's important research fosters advances in nursing practice, integrates biology and behavioral science, capitalizes on new technology, develops new tools, improves patient care, informs nurse educators, works to eliminate health disparities, and attracts new students to the profession.

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), NINR funds research that establishes the scientific basis for quality patient care.

Nursing research encompasses a wide scope of scientific inquiry including basic, clinical, as well as health systems and outcomes research. Basic research allows nurse researchers the opportunity to expand nursing knowledge by laying the foundation for scientific inquiry. Clinical research, based on biological, behavioral, and other types of investigations, provides the scientific basis for the care of individuals across the life span and occurs in any setting where nursing care is provided. Health systems and outcomes research examine the availability, quality, and costs of healthcare services, as well as ways to improve the effectiveness and appropriateness of clinical practice.

Additionally, interdisciplinary research is an essential characteristic of nursing research because multiple perspectives are required for the complex study of health and illness in our society. While nursing, social science, and biomedical research approaches make unique and independent contributions to the public's health, they also complement each other and bring balance to the nation's health and research agenda.

The NINR supports these types of investigations and funds research that is conducted by investigators at colleges, universities, and other research sites. In addition, NINR conducts its own research through its Intramural program, which is comprised of the Symptom Management Laboratory, the Pain Research Unit, and the Research Training Section.



NINR Funding

NINR's funding level of \$137.48 million is a modest amount relative to the allocations for other health science institutes and for major disease category funding. Additionally, the near level funding included in the President's FY 2009 Budget proposal makes it nearly impossible to increase and advance the nursing research being conducted and threatens to halt current NINR programs.

	FY 2008	President's FY 2009 Budget (2/4/08)	President's FY 2009 Budget (+/-) FY 2008
NIH	\$29.23 bil	\$29.2 bil	\$0
NINR	\$137.48 mil	\$137 mil	-\$0.48

The Importance of NINR Funded Research

Shortage of Nurse Researchers and Faculty

NINR attracts new students into the profession by providing opportunities for nurse researchers to solve important clinical problems that make a difference in the lives of patients. In 2005, *the National Research Council identified the need to double the number of nurse researchers in the U.S.* To help achieve this goal, NINR has established a joint program with the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities creating 17 Nursing Partnership Centers. These centers match eight established research-intensive universities and nine minority-serving institutions that are developing research programs with the goals of increasing the amount of research on health disparities and the number of minority students interested in nursing research.

Additionally, NINR allocates 7% of its budget, a high proportion when compared to other NIH institutes, to research training to help develop the pool of nurse researchers. Because nurse researchers often serve as faculty members for colleges of nursing, NINR is helping to provide the faculty needed to educate our next generation of nurses.

Behavioral Research: While understanding the biological basis of disease is essential, behavioral factors have a critical influence on the onset, course, and duration of disease, as well as in the successful management of many disease conditions. The NINR allocates approximately \$102 million of its portfolio to behavioral research. Almost 50% of the research budget addresses questions of health related to diverse populations.

Interdisciplinary Research Teams: Nurse researchers are well positioned to address the *NIH Roadmap's* development of new interdisciplinary research teams to study health issues from various biobehavioral perspectives. NINR already facilitates interdisciplinary research efforts with other health professions, other NIH Institutes, and federal agencies. In the future, there will be efforts to address interdisciplinary team training for the health professions.

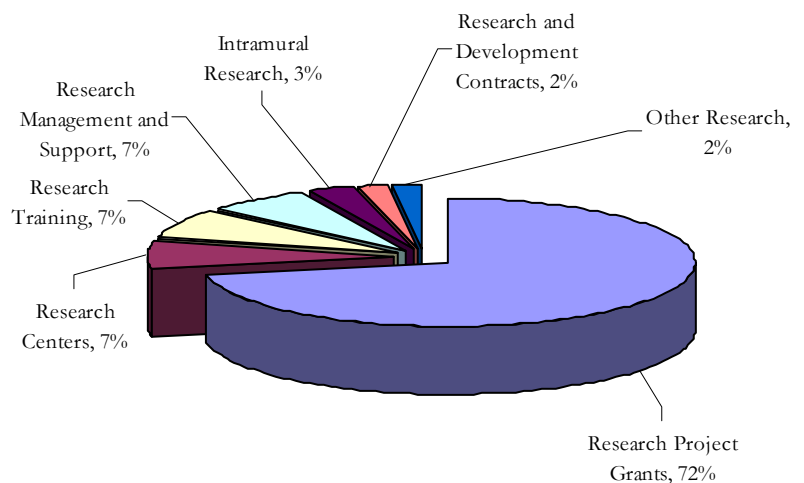
Examples of NINR Funded Research

Premature Infant's Length of Stay. When implemented early in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), an educational intervention program for parents of infants born prematurely can reduce parental stress, depression and anxiety, enhance parent-infant interactions, and reduce hospital length of stay. Researchers found that hospital costs were decreased by \$5,000 per infant. Additionally, with 480,000 low birth-weight premature infants born each year in the U.S., approximately \$2.4 billion could be saved annually within the national health care system if the program was adopted by NICUs across the country. *Melnyk, Arizona State University College, 2006.*

¡Cuidate! The Hispanic Youth Health Promotion Program. In a randomized controlled trial using a culturally tailored HIV-risk reduction program for Hispanic adolescents, long-term success was reported in reducing risky sexual behavior. The study found that adolescents reported a lower frequency of sexual intercourse, fewer sexual partners, and an increased use of condoms during intercourse for up to 12 months after completing the health promotion program. *Villarruel, University of Michigan, 2006.*

Women's Symptoms Prior to a Heart Attack. NINR funded a study in 2003 that represented one of the initial investigations into women's experience of heart attacks and how this differs from men's experience. The most frequently reported symptoms among women, prior to a heart attack (Acute Myocardial Infarction, [AMI]), were unusual fatigue (70.7%), sleep disturbance (47.8%), and shortness of breath (42.1%). Notably, fewer than 30% of the women reported chest pain and discomfort prior to AMI, and 43% did not experience chest pain during AMI. Most clinicians continue to consider chest pain as the most important AMI symptom for both women and men. This discrepancy is crucial, as recognition of symptoms that provide an early indication of heart attack, either imminently or in the near future, is critical to forestalling or preventing the disease. *NIH News, 2003*

NINR Budget



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