

Support Increased Funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research

As one of the 27 Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) funds research that establishes the scientific basis for quality patient care. Often working collaboratively with physicians and other researchers, nurse scientists are vital in setting the national research agenda. Yet while medical research focuses on curing diseases, nursing research is conducted to *prevent* disease. The four strategic areas of emphasis for research at NINR are:

- * Promoting Health and Preventing Disease
- * Improving Quality of Life
- * Eliminating Health Disparities
- * Setting Directions for End-of-Life Research

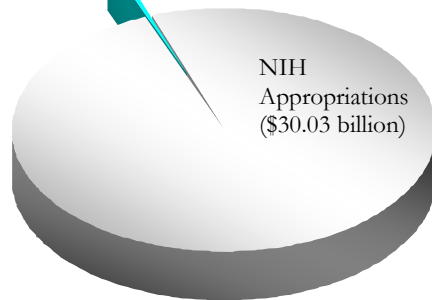
The science advanced at NINR is integral to the future of the nation's healthcare system. Through grants, research training, and interdisciplinary collaborations, NINR addresses care management of patients during illness and recovery, reduction of risks for disease and disability, promotion of healthy 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.

Appropriations

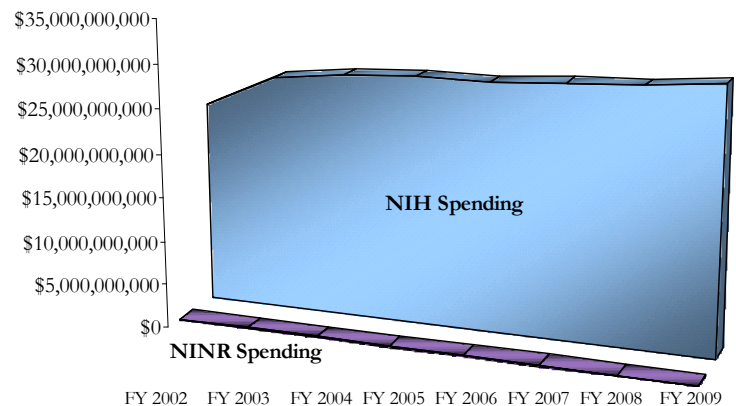
NINR's FY 2009 funding level of \$141.88 million is approximately 0.47% of the over all \$30.03 billion NIH Budget. Spending for nursing research is a modest amount relative to the allocations for other health science institutes and for major disease category funding. For NINR to adequately continue and further its mission, the institute must receive additional funding. Cuts in funding have impeded the institute from supporting larger comprehensive studies needed to advance nursing science and improve the quality of patient care.

**FY 2009 NINR Appropriations
as a Portion of the NIH Budget**

NINR Appropriations
(\$141.88 million
or .47% of NIH
Appropriations)



**Historical Comparison of NINR to NIH
Spending FY 2002-2009**



Cost Effectiveness Research

For many years, NINR has invested in cost effectiveness research. Cost effectiveness research demonstrates how prevention strategies or interventions can impact system-wide savings. Cost effectiveness research is a critical area of inquiry at a time when healthcare consumers and reformers are seeking quality care focused on prevention that is affordable and accessible by all. For an example of this type of research, see the back of this page.

Promoting Health and Preventing Disease

Presently, more than 1.7 million Americans die each year from chronic diseases. Nurse researchers focus on investigating wellness strategies to prevent these chronic diseases. A healthcare system which promotes prevention promises to be a major focus of health reform, and NINR is a leader in funding scientific research to discover optimal prevention methods.

Examples of NINR Research Initiatives

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 healthcare system if the program was adopted by NICUs across the country.

Dr. Bernadette 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. *Dr. Antonia 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 a heart attack.

NIH News, 2003

NINR and the Faculty Shortage

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that more than one million new and replacement nurses will be needed by 2016. One of the most acute aspects of the nursing shortage is the shortage of qualified nursing faculty. At a time when there is tremendous need for registered nurses (RNs), schools of nursing are forced to turn away thousands of qualified applicants annually. According to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing's (AACN) 2008-2009 annual survey, U.S. nursing schools turned away 49,948 qualified applicants from baccalaureate and graduate programs in 2008. The number one reason cited for not accepting all qualified applicants was faculty shortages. Without an adequate supply of faculty for our nation's nursing schools, it will be impossible to increase the supply of RNs.

NINR allocates 7% of its budget, a high proportion when compared to other NIH institutes, to 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.**

NINR attracts new students into graduate programs 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.

***Recommendation:* In FY 2010, AACN and the nursing community respectfully request \$178 million for NINR.**

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