OBAMA-BIDEN TRANSITION PROJECT

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NATIONAL PRIMATE RESEARCH CENTERS

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES TO OUR NATION'S HEALTH

The Challenges

In an effort to achieve the health care goals of the new Administration, clinical and translational research is a necessary step to get innovative science from its basic form to the patient for implementation. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has responded to this need by strategically supporting the next generation of biomedical research through cross-cutting, interdisciplinary initiatives such as those supported in the NIH Roadmap, the NIH Neuroscience Blueprint, the Clinical and Translational Science Award program, and the Genes, Environment and Health Initiative. Animal models are an essential tool for bridging basic biomedical research and patient healthcare, and the National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs) are a national resource which supports the achievement of this goal.

The National Primate Research Centers

The National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs) are a national network of eight primate research centers that address human health problems through scientific research by using animal models that most closely resemble humans in their genetics, physiology, and disease processes – nonhuman primates. NPRC investigators and resources support research projects sponsored by nearly every institute at NIH. For example, the NPRCs conduct research to help understand and treat conditions such as heart disease, hypertension, cancer, diabetes, hepatitis, AIDS, kidney disease, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease. The NPRCs also conduct research on emerging infectious diseases and support many aspects of biodefense. NPRC facilities and resources are currently used by over 2,000 NIH-funded investigators around the country.

Our Commitment

The NPRCs are prepared to serve as a resource to the new Administration to address the health care challenges that face the nation by contributing to clinical and translational research and biomedical infrastructure as a foundation for public health.

Translational Research

Nonhuman primate models bridge the divide between basic biomedical research and implementation in a clinical setting. As the closest genetic model to humans, nonhuman primates serve in the development of new drugs, treatments, and vaccines, to ensure safe and effective use for the nation's public.

The Environment and Public Health

By developing and studying naturally occurring disease models in nonhuman primates (e.g., developmental disorders, obesity, cancer, and neurodegenerative diseases), researchers can determine the biological mechanisms that induce disease and lead to understanding the genetic and environmental factors that influence disease onset and progression.

Health IT: Imaging and Computing

As part of an effort to perform efficient and effective clinical and translational research, the NPRCs have been leading the development of new IT approaches, including the Biomedical Informatics Research Network (BIRN) for linking brain imaging, behavior, and molecular informatics in non-human primate preclinical and translational models research. The cyberinfrastructure of BIRN can be used for data-processing, sharing, and storing and can link research and information to other primate centers, as well as other geographically distributed research groups.

The ***National Primate Research Centers*** (NPRCs) are a consortium dedicated to furthering biomedical research. The NPRCs serve as national resources to over 2000 external NIH-funded investigators. The NPRCs advocate for the federal support of NIH to greater benefit public health.

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