

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) supports research on some of the most common, debilitating, and costly conditions affecting Americans. These conditions include diabetes and other endocrine and metabolic diseases, liver and other digestive diseases, nutritional disorders, obesity, kidney and urologic diseases, and hematologic diseases. Each year, we take time to reflect over the past year's basic and clinical research achievements supported by the NIDDK and to highlight them in this annual compendium, now in its seventh year.

The research advances and programs described herein represent a substantial return on investments made in previous years. Research resources were made possible during the doubling of the NIH budget, including repositories of samples collected for large clinical trials and consortia, such as the IBD Genetics Consortium. Such resources are now enabling pursuit of additional studies, including those aimed at fundamental, cross-disciplinary research questions relating to conditions within the NIDDK mission. We are also strengthening our collaborations with other NIH Institutes and Centers through studies on gene-environment interactions, biomarkers, and nuclear receptor signaling pathways.

The solid research foundation built through past NIDDK support is bearing fruit in terms of research toward translating basic and clinical research findings to successful interventions. For example, this document presents results of pilot studies for the recently launched HEALTHY trial designed to target type 2 diabetes risk factors in children, as well as continuing benefits from translating findings of the Diabetes Prevention Program to promote healthier lifestyle choices for adults at risk of type 2 diabetes. Furthermore, translational successes are now visible in the development of new clinical tools to improve diagnosis and monitoring of disease. Examples include new imaging techniques for polycystic kidney disease and continuous glucose monitors to assist patients in managing type 1 diabetes.

The NIDDK continues to devote efforts to ensuring that knowledge gained from these major NIDDK-sponsored research advances reaches health care providers and patients. Such efforts include ongoing educational programs, such as the National Kidney Disease Education Program and the National Diabetes Education Program, as well as a new program to promote celiac disease awareness and a women's urologic health outreach program currently under development. This annual publication also aims to further the goal of disseminating to stakeholders information on NIDDK-supported research advances.

By engaging in highly collaborative strategic planning, the Institute endeavors to maximize use of its resources to best support future research advances. Recent efforts reflect collaboration with external experts from the scientific, health care, and patient advocacy communities, as well as research partners from across the NIH and other Federal agencies. For example, the Institute led the development, with broad stakeholder input, of a *Type 1 Diabetes Research Strategic Plan* and a *Strategic Plan for Pediatric Urology*. The Institute is currently providing leadership to the development of a long-range research plan by the National Commission on Digestive Diseases.

This compendium reflects only a fraction of the immense body of work performed by basic scientists, clinical researchers, and patient volunteers. We hope that this booklet conveys a sense of the NIDDK's important contributions to the national biomedical research enterprise.

Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., M.A.C.P.

Acting Director

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

National Institutes of Health

Department of Health and Human Services