

OAR Special Initiatives

OAR identifies scientific areas that require focused attention and manages and facilitates multi-Institute and trans-Institute activities to address those needs. OAR fosters this research through a number of mechanisms, such as designating funds and supplements for pilot programs and sponsoring reviews or evaluations of scientific programs. OAR, alone or in collaboration with an Institute(s), also frequently convenes scientific workshops, bringing together leading researchers from around the world to review the state of the science and recommend new cutting-edge initiatives. These initiatives may be in areas that require a new avenue for investigation or where new directions are necessary. The success of these initiatives is the expansion of the research portfolio in new, targeted areas.

FY 2015 OAR Special Initiatives		
Title	Type	Brief Description
Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research Coordinating Committees	Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces	Each scientific area of the strategic plan is developed by Coordinating Committees comprised of representatives from the NIH Institutes and Centers and scientific experts from other agencies, including CDC, HRSA, VA, USAID, DoD, and PEPFAR. These committees assist in developing the annual Trans-NIH Plan for HIV-Related Research to ensure that the AIDS research budget funds the highest priority HIV/AIDS research. The plan 1) frames the development of the NIH AIDS research budget; 2) determines the use of NIH AIDS-designated dollars; 3) tracks and monitors HIV/AIDS research expenditures; and 4) informs the public, the scientific community, Congress, and the AIDS-affected communities about the NIH HIV/AIDS research agenda. The Plan also shapes the NIH investment in HIV/AIDS research.

Trans-NIH Genetics/Genomics Coordinating Committee for HIV/AIDS Research	Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces	This committee was established to promote intra-agency collaboration in the conduct and funding of HIV/AIDS genetics research, and related activities, as appropriate; to identify and develop approaches to address research opportunities and gaps; and to identify issues and activities that should be brought before NIH advisory groups.
Trans-NIH Coordinating Committee on HIV and Aging	Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces	This committee was established to promote intra-agency collaboration in fostering research on HIV and aging; to develop approaches to address novel research opportunities and existing gaps; to facilitate the coordination and funding of HIV and Aging research; and to identify issues and activities that should be brought before NIH advisory groups.
U.S.-India Joint Working Group on Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and HIV/AIDS	Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces	This bilateral program between the United States and India was established in 2006 with the signing of a Joint Statement on the Prevention of STDs and HIV. The program aims to facilitate collaborations on research and training between the United States and India that involve trans-NIH HIV/AIDS research efforts and the participation of multiple NIH Institutes. The program was renewed in 2011 and is eligible for renewal in 2015.
U.S.-Russia Collaboration on Research Related to HIV/AIDS	Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces	This bilateral program between the United States and Russia was established in March 2011 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The program was established to foster international collaborative research and research training on HIV/AIDS and the exchange of scientific information among researchers. The program facilitates successful United States and Russian research collaborations leading to subsequent advances in interventions and clinical

		studies involving the following priority areas: research toward a cure, microbicides, vaccines, behavioral and social science research, molecular biology, tuberculosis coinfection, and other HIV-associated comorbidities such as cancer and genomics.
U.S.-South Africa Program for Collaborative Biomedical Research	Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces	This bilateral program between the United States and South Africa was established in January 2013 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NIH Director and the President of the Medical Research Council (MRC) of the Republic of South Africa. The purpose of this collaboration is to foster, stimulate, and/or expand basic, translational, behavioral and applied research that will advance scientific discovery and engage U.S. and South African researchers working collaboratively in the areas of TB, HIV/AIDS biomedical and behavioral science, and HIV-related co-morbidities, including malignancies.
Multi-Purpose Prevention Technologies Funders Group	Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces	Working group with external funders to coordinate funding for multi-purpose prevention technology.
U.S.-China Program for Collaborative Research Toward a Cure for HIV	Committees, Working Groups, and Task Forces	The bilateral program for research collaboration between the United States and China was established in October 2010 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NIH Director and the President of the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC). An Implementing Arrangement to establish a joint program for collaborative research toward a cure for HIV was subsequently signed in August 2013 in the context of the MOU. The purpose of this collaboration is to foster, stimulate, and/or expand basic, translational, behavioral, and applied research that will

		advance research toward a cure for HIV.
Innate Response Induced by HIV and HIV Vaccines	Meeting	This workshop was motivated by emerging data in this area, as well as recommendations from both the NIH HIV/AIDS Strategic Working Group and the NIAID Adenovirus summit, highlighting the need for studies on innate immunobiology in HIV infection and vaccination.
Trans-NIH Working Group on Intimate Partner Violence and HIV	Working Group	This Working Group was established to ensure that NIH has a coordinated, multidisciplinary research response to address the intersection of HIV and Intimate Partner Violence.