


**CENTER OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**  
Program of the National Institutes of Health

AASCU  
August 24, 2010



## NIH Support for Behavioral and Social Research

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**CENTER OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**  
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## Outline

- NIH Mission
- OBSSR Mission, Structure, and Role
- **BASIC** Behavioral and Social Science Research (bBSSR)
  - OppNet



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### ***The NIH Mission:***

... science in pursuit of fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability.




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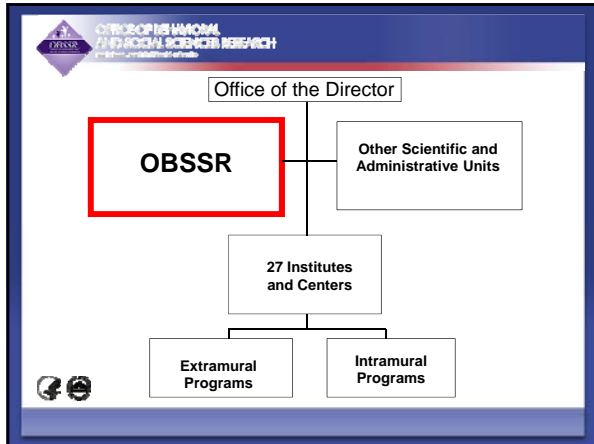
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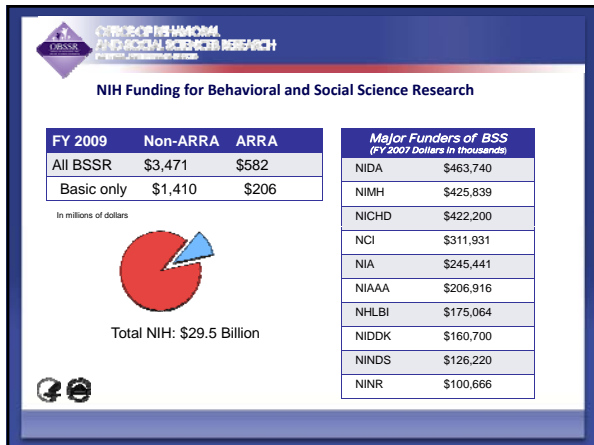
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**The OBSSR Mission:**

*... to stimulate behavioral and social science research throughout NIH and to integrate these areas of research more fully into others of the NIH health research enterprise, thereby improving our understanding, treatment, and prevention of disease.*

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**CENTER OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**  
**Role of OBSSR**

- Developing BSS research agenda
- Planning, leading and supporting trans-NIH initiatives
- Leveraging IC investments in BSS
- Coordinating and communicating at NIH
- Education and training
- Informing the NIH leadership
- Informing the BSS community
- Informing Congress and the public



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**CENTER OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**  
**Strategic Prospectus**  
[http://obssr.od.nih.gov/about\\_obssr/strategic\\_planning/strategicPlanning.aspx](http://obssr.od.nih.gov/about_obssr/strategic_planning/strategicPlanning.aspx)

- *Next generation* basic science
- Interdisciplinary research
- Systems-thinking approaches to health
- Population impact





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**CENTER OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**  
**NIH Behavioral and Social Sciences Research**

- **Basic research** on behavioral and social mechanisms that affect health at the individual and population levels, & bio-behavioral-social interrelationships
- **Translational research** on the conversion of basic knowledge into practice that improves health at the individual and population levels



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**OBSSR** OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH  
Program of Intramural Research

## Definition

b-BSSR furthers our understanding of fundamental mechanisms and patterns of behavior of individuals and functioning of social structures.

Examples

- Research on the behavior of proteins and cells is basic research, not basic BSSR.
- Research on the neural bases of coordinated behaviors in honey bee swarms is b-BSSR.
- Research on mechanisms of peer influence among teenagers is b-BSSR.
- Research on how to calm investigators who are anxious about their b-BSSR NIH grant applications is *applied* BSSR! ☺




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**OBSSR** OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH  
Program of Intramural Research

## Basic Science Initiatives

**From OBSSR Prospectus**

- Methodology and technology
- Genes, behavior, and environments
- Science of behavior change
- Stress pathways
- Social networks and cultural processes
- Systems science



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Program of Intramural Research

## OppNet

**Basic Behavioral and Social Science Opportunity Network**

- Established November 2009
- Trans-NIH initiative
  - Not an OBSSR enterprise
  - Special governance and budget
  - Housed and operated out of OBSSR
- Internal & external constituents inform plans
  - RFI for topics and opportunities



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**OPPORTUNITIES NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH** **OpNet Goal**

- To advance b-BSSR through activities and initiatives that build a body of knowledge about the nature of behavior and social systems.
- OpNet prioritizes activities and initiatives that are
  - Basic mechanisms of behavior and social processes;
  - Relevant to multiple NIH ICO and public health challenges; and
  - Built upon & extend NIH investments without replicating them.

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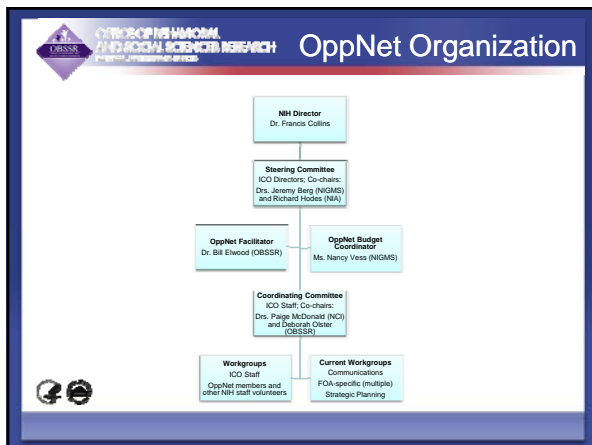
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**OPPORTUNITIES NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES RESEARCH** **Three Categories**

- Behavioral and Social Processes**  
*Learning, social cognition, group processes, migration patterns)*
- Biopsychosocial Research**  
*Also known as biobehavioral or biosocial research*
- Methodology and measurement**  
*Data collections, modeling, research design, data analysis*

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**CENTERS FOR INTEGRATIVE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**

**Funding**

24 ICs\* and 4 program offices co-fund and co-manage OppNet




**FY2010: \$12 million**  
*\$10M in ARRA funds*  
*\$2M for HIV/AIDS-related research projects*

**FY2011 – 2014**  
*Fixed percentage of each IC's base appropriation.*

**FY2011: \$20 million**  
*\$10 million from NIH Director*  
*\$10 million from Institutes & Centers*

**FY 2012-2014: \$30 million each FY**

\* All NIH Institutes and Centers that fund extramural research




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**CENTERS FOR INTEGRATIVE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**

**FY2010 FOAs**


**RFA-OD-10-003:** Mentored career development in b-BSSR for mid-career/senior investigators (K18)

**NOT-OD-10-032:** ARRA competitive revisions for R01, R03, R15, R21, R21/33, R37 grants

**NOT-OD-10-033:** ARRA competitive revisions for HIV/AIDS-related research

**NOT-OD-10-034:** ARRA competitive revisions for SBIR/STTR (R43/44, R41/42)

**NOT-OD-10-036:** HIV/AIDS funds for HIV/AIDS-related research




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**CENTERS FOR INTEGRATIVE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH**

**2010 RFI**

- Capacity building
- Cognition & emotion
- Cultural aspects of health
- Decision making
- Temporal dynamics
- Gene by environment
- Health behaviors
- Social environment
- Sleep & circadian rhythms
- Social & personality psychology
- Social gradients, social stratification, & health inequities
- Stress




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**CENTRE FOR INTEGRATIVE AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE RESEARCH**  
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<http://oppnet.nih.gov>




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