

## OFFICE OF DISEASE PREVENTION

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*Office of Disease Prevention (ODP)*

### Mission:

The mission of Office of Disease Prevention (ODP) is to foster, coordinate and assess research in prevention, which seeks to improve public health in the nation and throughout the world. ODP collaborates with other federal agencies, academic institutions, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and international organizations in the formulation of research initiatives and policies that promote public health, and advises the NIH Director on these topics. To carry out these diverse responsibilities, ODP has several administrative units: the Office of Dietary Supplements, the Office of Medical Applications of Research, and the Office of Rare Diseases.

*Office of Medical Applications of Research (OMAR)*

The Office of Medical Applications of Research (OMAR) within the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is the focal point for evidence-based assessments of medical practice and state-of-the-science on behalf of the medical community and the public. Located in the Office of the Director, OMAR works closely with NIH Institutes or Centers and Offices to assess, translate and disseminate the results of biomedical research that can be used in the delivery of important health services to the public.

A major responsibility of OMAR is the coordination of the NIH Consensus Development Program. Under this program, OMAR organizes major conferences on complex issues of medical importance to health care providers, patients and the general public. These conferences are open to the public, broadcast on the Internet and free of charge to participants. The NIH Consensus Statements and State of the Science Statements produced by these conferences are disseminated widely to health care practitioners, policymakers, patients, the media and the general public. An evidence-based assessment is prepared for each conference topic. The assessment involves a systematic review of the medical literature to define the state of medical practice or science by using rigorous criteria for categorizing the strength of the available evidence.

In addition, through the Medicine in the Media program, OMAR seeks to enhance the ability of journalists to critically assess scientific reports and medical findings using an evidence-based approach, and to add context to make reports on research in the popular media more useful to readers.

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### *Office of Rare Diseases (ORD)*

The Office of Rare Diseases (ORD) was established in 1993 within the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). A rare disease (also called an orphan disease) is a disease or condition affecting fewer than 200,000 persons in the United States. An estimated 25 million people in the United States have a rare disease.

The goals of ORD are to stimulate and coordinate research on rare diseases and to support research to respond to the needs of patients who have any one of the more than 6,000 rare diseases known today. To leverage its resources, stimulate rare diseases research activities, and foster collaboration, ORD works with NIH Institutes or Centers to support:

- A grants program to establish a network for research on rare diseases, including the training of rare diseases researchers;
- An intramural center for patients with undiagnosed rare conditions, and programs to stimulate clinical research on rare diseases including the training of researchers interested in rare diseases;
- Scientific conferences program to stimulate research where little exists, where research progress may have stalled, or in response to scientific opportunities;
- Regional workshops to assist patient support groups to become partners with the NIH and better understand NIH research programs and gaining better access to NIH research opportunities;
- An information center and other information dissemination mechanisms to supply reliable and valid information to the public, researchers, and health care providers, including various databases to provide access to information over the web, and the ORD Web site; and
- Ancillary activities that contribute to furthering research on rare diseases.

## OFFICE OF DISEASE PREVENTION

### *Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS)*

The Office of Dietary Supplements was created in 1995 within the Office of Disease Prevention to:

- Explore more fully the potential role of dietary supplements as a significant part of the efforts of the United States to improve health care;
- Promote scientific study of the benefits of dietary supplements in maintaining health and preventing chronic disease and other health-related conditions;
- Conduct and coordinate scientific research within NIH relating to dietary supplements;
- Collect and compile the results of scientific research relating to dietary supplements, including scientific data from foreign sources; and
- Serve as the principal advisor to the Secretary and to the Assistant Secretary for Health and provide advice to the Director of NIH, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration on issues relating to dietary supplements.

The ODS does not have granting authority and, therefore, largely provides research funding through collaboration with the NIH Institutes and Centers (ICs) in support of basic and clinical studies addressing dietary supplements. Through this process, grant applications that are reviewed through the standard NIH review process and fall within the research priority areas of the ODS, can be submitted to the ODS for co-funding. ODS also uses other available mechanisms (such as cooperative agreements, interagency agreements and contracts) to meet its goals.

The ODS has several program areas:

- Evidence-based reviews of efficacy and safety of dietary supplements that ODS and its IC partners use to define target areas for future research;
- A program of dietary supplement research centers focused on botanicals, in collaboration with NCCAM, NIEHS, and other ICs and Offices;
- Collaboration with ICs on intervention studies that use specific well-defined dietary supplements, including botanicals, as major variables;
- A training and career development program for the preparation of scientists in a variety of disciplines to address emerging problems of dietary supplement research;
- Databases of dietary supplement ingredients, developed in collaboration with other Federal agencies, to support surveys of dietary supplement intake and exposure;
- Analytical methods and reference materials program; and
- Consumer-oriented products, including Fact Sheets, databases of dietary supplement research activities and literature citations.