

NATIONAL CENTER FOR RESEARCH RESOURCES

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National Center for
Research Resources
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Mission:

The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) is this nation's primary federal funding source for a broad range of multidisciplinary, shared, biomedical research resources that are critical to advancing biomedicine and improving human health. NCRR grant support enables biomedical research institutions and individual investigators to create and develop sophisticated biomedical technologies; purchase state-of-the-art instrumentation; validate and disseminate research models, materials, and genetic stocks; and establish specialized research resource centers. Annually, NCRR's resource centers host more than 28,000 investigators who have received research project grants from the categorical NIH institutes and other sources. Shared resource centers are cost-effective and stimulate cross-disciplinary collaborations. NCRR support also strengthens this nation's biomedical research infrastructure and expands its research capacity. NCRR's grant programs are concentrated in four programmatic divisions:

Biomedical Technology Research and Research Resources (BTRRR):

Scientists at 50 NCRR-supported biomedical technology centers create and develop advanced instruments, technologies, and techniques that are made available to the biomedical investigators to enable their research projects. Current areas of emphasis at the centers include integrated technologies, molecular and cellular structural biology technologies, noninvasive imaging and spectroscopy, mathematical modeling, simulation, advanced computing, and synchrotron radiation. In addition, the Biomedical Informatics Research Network (BIRN) is a collaborative initiative that brings together groups of research centers to share and mine data in a site-independent manner for both basic and clinical research. NCRR also funds instrumentation grants for groups of NIH-supported investigators to obtain commercially available equipment. The grants are funded through a two-tiered approach: Shared Instrumentation Grants (those costing between \$100,000 and \$500,000); and High-End Instrumentation Grants (those costing between \$750,000 and \$2.0 million). Instruments include structural and functional imaging systems, macromolecular NMR spectrometers, high-resolution mass spectrometers, electron microscopes, and supercomputers.

Clinical Research Resources (CRR): Eighty NCRR-supported General Clinical Research Centers (GCRCs) are located within hospitals and academic medical centers nationwide. These GCRCs provide highly-specialized research staff and facilities for multidisciplinary patient studies. A Research Subject Advocate (RSA) position was recently added to each GCRC to assist GCRC investigators, nurses, and staff in the safe and ethical conduct of clinical research and to represent the interests of research participants. Each GCRC is also equipped to provide training and career development opportunities for physicians and dentists who are interested in pursuing clinical research. NCRR also supports Science Education Partnership Awards which bring together researchers, educators, community groups, science centers, and others to create and disseminate information from recent scientific findings that both stimulates an interest in science careers and informs the public

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about healthier lifestyle changes. Other supported resources include National Gene Vector Laboratories, Islet Cell Resource Centers, and the Human Tissue and Organ Resource.

Comparative Medicine (CM): NCRR funding helps biomedical researchers obtain high-quality, disease-free animals and access specialized animal research facilities. A network of eight National Primate Research Centers (NPRCs) make nonhuman primates accessible to qualified investigators through collaborative research projects with core NPRC scientists. In addition, the Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Centers operate as a one-stop shop for biomedical researchers to donate their models for broad dissemination to other qualified investigators or to receive strains for their research. Similarly, repositories for biomaterials ensure a continuous supply of high-quality viruses, bacteria, and fungi, as well as cell lines, genetic stocks, and more. NCRR supported career development, training, and fellowship awards enable veterinarians to pursue animal-based research and to become independent, multicategorical investigators.

Research Infrastructure (RI): A diverse mix of NCRR grant programs help strengthen our nation's biomedical research infrastructure. The Research Centers in Minority Institutions (RCMI) Program increases the research capacity at predominately minority institutions that award doctoral degrees in the health sciences. Several RCMI's affiliated with medical schools also receive support to strengthen their clinical research capacity. The Research and Animal Facility Improvement Programs support new construction and renovations at research institutions, including animal facilities. In addition, the Institutional Development Award (IDeA) Program enhances the research capacity of institutions in states with historically low aggregate success rates for NIH funding. The IDeA program is carried out through two approaches: Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) and IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). NCRR also works with other NIH institutes or centers to fund grants in IDeA states that are competitive, but may be just out of range for the institute to fund.

Appropriations History

(\$ in thousands)

| | |
|---------|----------------------|
| FY 2001 | \$817,253 (+20.8%) |
| FY 2002 | \$1,011,262 (+23.7%) |
| FY 2003 | \$1,138,821 (+12.6%) |
| FY 2004 | \$1,179,058 (+3.6%) |
| FY 2005 | \$1,115,090 (-5.4%) |

Extramural Research Project Grants

(Includes SBIR/STTRs)

| | |
|---------|-----|
| FY 2001 | 208 |
| FY 2002 | 197 |
| FY 2003 | 194 |
| FY 2004 | 222 |
| FY 2005 | 226 |

Success Rate — Research Project Grants

| | |
|---------|-----|
| FY 2001 | 29% |
| FY 2002 | 28% |
| FY 2003 | 28% |
| FY 2004 | 21% |
| FY 2005 | 29% |

Research Training Positions Supported

| | |
|---------|-----|
| FY 2001 | 94 |
| FY 2002 | 102 |
| FY 2003 | 136 |
| FY 2004 | 141 |
| FY 2005 | 150 |

Research Centers

| | |
|---------|-----|
| FY 2001 | 278 |
| FY 2002 | 300 |
| FY 2003 | 313 |
| FY 2004 | 328 |
| FY 2005 | 337 |