52nd Meeting of the NIH Advisory Committee on Research on Women’s Health

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November 2, 2020 – Director’s Report

Office of Research on Women’s Health
Advancing the Health of Women Through Science
Concept clearance will advance women in biomedical careers on two fronts
Initiatives to advance women in science build on the past

1992
Reentry Supplements to Promote Reentry into Biomedical Research Careers

2000
BIRCWH

2002
SCOR/SCORE

2007
WG on Women in Biomedical Careers

2008
Causal Factors & Interventions Research

2008
Family Friendly Policies

2012
Women of Color Research Network

2019
WG on Changing the Culture to end Sexual Harassment

2020
Challenge Prize
Representation in STEM Professoriate by Gender and Race

Academic STEM Career Progression by Gender and Race, 2015

NASEM’s Promising Practices lays out career barriers

“Underrepresentation of women in STEMM—including at leadership levels—is driven by a wide range of structural, cultural, and institutional patterns of bias, discrimination, and inequity that do not affect men of comparable ability and training”
A double whammy for women of color

COVID-19 is impacting workforce, study questions, future knowledge base

SHORT-TERM  *impact of additional household and childcare responsibilities*
- Publications gap, which impede tenure path
  - Women first authorship dropped from 35.9% in Dec. to 20.2% in April
  - Last authorship, from 26.1% to 19.3%
- Plus accelerating departures from scientific workforce

LONG-TERM
- Fewer women biomedical researchers, less sex and gender analysis
- Will women’s departures “turn back the clock” – affecting opportunities, advancement

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES  *to address impact on women scientists*
- New applications of virtual technologies
- Flexibility in tenure, reentry, leave policies

Nielsen MW et al. *Nat Hum Behav*. 2017. PMID: 31024130
COVID-19 reveals interconnected health challenges & need for “Whole Person” strategies

• Nation’s poor state of health manifested in declining life expectancy and prevalence of multiple chronic conditions
  o Links to chronic pain, depression, opioid addiction, and suicide
  o Shared common roots, such as poor diet, sedentary lifestyle, and chronic stress
• “Domino effect of chronic conditions” is seen in the virus’s disproportionate toll on Hispanic, Black, other underserved communities
• COVID-19 makes clear what is needed: “integrative research that bridges across multiple interconnected systems and examines the entire health-disease continuum”

“As a nation, we’re in an alarmingly poor overall state of health.”

Helene Langevin, M.D
Director, NICCH

www.nccih.nih.gov/about/offices/od/director/past-messages/interconnected-challenges-require-research-that-recognizes-the-whole-person?nav=fb
NIH deploys COVID-19 surveys to the research community

• To inform policy and program decisions as NIH seeks to identify ways to continue to support the biomedical research enterprise
• Confidential | de-identified data

Extramural Institutions Survey

• So NIH better “understands overall challenges faced by institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic.”
• Includes “single institutional leader who oversees research”

Extramural Researchers Survey

• To understand how COVID-19 has impacted individual researchers at NIH funded institutions
• Researchers in our sampling population will be receiving an email from Qualtrics

Contact jennifer.miller-gonzalez@nih.gov with any questions
ORWH 30th Anniversary Virtual Meeting Series:
Advancing the Health of Women Through Science
December 14-16, 2020

Connect With Us

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