Advancing Science for the Health of Women: 2019-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan

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NIH Advisory Committee on Research on Women’s Health Meeting
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Today’s Outline

• Strategic Plan Update
  • Background and timeline
  • Strategic plan framework
    • Strategic priorities
    • Foundational principles
• Outcomes of the ACRWH Strategic Plan Working Group
• Discussion on the Working Group Outcomes
**Mission**

To enhance research related to diseases, disorders, and conditions affecting women; to help ensure that women are appropriately represented in biomedical research supported by the NIH; and to improve the advancement of women in biomedical careers.

**Vision**

Sex and gender influences are integrated into the biomedical research enterprise; every woman receives evidence-based disease prevention and treatment tailored to her own needs, circumstances, and goals; and women in science reach their full potential.
Advancing Science for the Health of Women: 2019-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan Timeline

April – August 2017: Stakeholder engagement; ACRWH Working Group & CCRWH

September – November 2017: Request for Information published

November – December 2017: Update ACRWH

January – February 2018: ORWH Director with ICO Leadership

February – March 2018: ORWH analyzes responses and develops goals

April 2018: ORWH Director updates NIH Director & NIH Council of Councils

June 2018: Production & dissemination

July – August 2018: Draft Final SP

September – October 2018: ACRWH members review

We are here
RFI Methods & Engagement

• Sep. 12 – Nov. 10, 2017
• 145 Responses
• Extensive stakeholder engagement
  ✓ Researcher 46%
  ✓ Federal 18%
  ✓ Advocate 17%
  ✓ Clinician 15%
  ✓ Other/Unknown 14%
  ✓ Patient 7%
• Analysis - 45 categories
Categories Refined

45 broad categories represented:

• Research topics e.g. Pregnancy
• Cross-cutting themes e.g. SABV, health disparities, team science, contextual factors, life-course
• Women in biomedical careers e.g. Training
• Policies that affect Women’s health e.g. Inclusion
• Dissemination e.g. Sex specific results reporting
• Resources e.g. How to incorporate SABV in research
• Directives/processes e.g. Educate study sections
Synthesis of RFI Responses: Research Topics: What to Study?

- Health of women
- Cardiovascular
- Mental health
- Pregnancy
- Microbiome
- Epigenetics
- Environmental health behaviors
Synthesis of RFI Responses: Cross-Cutting Themes

- **diseases / conditions**
- **the health of women**
- **public health**
- **discovery**

- interdisciplinary approaches
- intentional integration
- multidimensional consideration

National Institutes of Health
Office of Research on Women's Health
Advancing Science for the Health of Women: 2019-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan

### Foundational Principles for Research on Women’s Health

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<tr>
<th>Interdisciplinary Approaches</th>
<th>Intentional Integration</th>
<th>Multidimensional Considerations</th>
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### Strategic Priorities & Goals

#### RESEARCH
- Identify & advance innovative & emerging areas of women’s health research

#### METHODS
- Develop & enhance research methods & resources

#### DISSEMINATION
- Disseminate research on women's health

#### CAREERS
- Promote recruitment, retention, re-entry & advancement of women in biomedical careers

#### EVALUATION
- Systematically monitor & improve NIH investments in women’s health research

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**Strategic Objectives**

**Implementation Plan**
Strategic Plan for Research on Women’s Health Teams

**Purpose:**
To contribute to the development, implementation and dissemination of the Strategic Plan

**Process & Structure:**
2 Trans-NIH Think Tank Sessions
5 Teams, 70 members (& growing), representing all NIH and several ICOs
Co-chairs: ORWH & ICO staff

### Strategic Priorities & Goals

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<td>Identify &amp; advance innovative &amp; emerging areas of women’s health research</td>
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<td>Promote recruitment, retention, re-entry &amp; advancement of women in biomedical careers</td>
<td>Systematically monitor &amp; improve NIH investments in women’s health research</td>
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**Strategic Objectives**
Recommendation of our Advisors:  
ACRWH Strategic Plan Working Group

Purpose:
• Refine & update essential elements of:
  • Women’s Health & the Health of Women
• Develop essential elements of foundational principles:
  • Interdisciplinary approaches
  • Intentional integration
  • Multidimensional considerations
Outcomes of the ACRWH Working Group: Women’s Health

The Health of Women -

Encompasses all aspects of health & disease accounting for sex & gender influences.

Women’s Health Research is research that takes into consideration the health of women; studies that address the influence of sex/gender on any aspect of health & disease including reproductive health.
Outcomes of the ACRWH Working Group: Multidimensional Framework

The Health of Women Across the Life Course

External Factors – Women in Context
Social Determinants of Health, Policies, Gender, Environment, & Behaviors

Developmental Stages

Pre-conception | In-Utero | Childhood | Adolescence | Adulthood
Early | Middle | Late

Internal Factors – Biological Perspective
Sex influences at molecular, cellular, tissue, and organ levels

Raising the Bar, 2017
Outcomes of the ACRWH Working Group: 
Intentional Integration

Accounting for Sex & Gender as a Biological Variable in Design, Analysis, Reporting

Implementation

Preclinical Studies

Basic Science

Phase I, II, III, IV Clinical Trials

Clinical Research

Health Promotion – Disease Prevention – Disease Management

Bedside to Bench

Education | Health Policy | Health Care
Outcomes of the ACRWH Working Group: Interdisciplinary Approaches

Partnerships that collaborate across disciplinary boundaries.

Interdisciplinary Research:

A mode of research that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding, or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice.

National Academy of Sciences, 2008
ORWH: Unique Role & Contribution

• Create opportunities for synergy between ICOs
• Identify gaps in evidence, practice, & health
• Convene interdisciplinary experts with common interests
• Leverage co-funding resources with ICO partners
• Advise on the inclusion of women, minorities, & individuals across the life course in clinical research
• Promote the advancement of women in biomedical careers
• Provide a platform for intentional integration of sex & gender
• Advance a multidimensional view on the health of women
### Next Steps:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Strategic plan teams refine objectives &amp; summaries</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next draft of strategic plan &amp; ORWH review</td>
<td>July 2018</td>
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<td>Provide strategic plan to ACRWH members</td>
<td>August 2018</td>
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<td>Review &amp; approval of final draft by NIH leadership</td>
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<td>Production of strategic plan</td>
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Working Group Members
Special Thanks

• Christine Bachrach, PhD
  University of Maryland, College Park

• C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD
  Cedars-Sinai Medical Center

• Carmen Green, MD
  University of Michigan

• Mark Hayward, PhD
  University of Texas at Austin

• Ana Maria Lopez, MD
  University of Utah

• Amy Paller, MD
  Northwestern University

• Judy Regensteiner, PhD
  University of Colorado

• Marcia Stefanick, PhD
  Stanford University
Discussion
Facilitator: Dr. Judy Regensteiner

• Do the foundational principles represent the essential elements to advance science for the health of women?

• General comments and questions: