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

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ACRWH Meeting — October 23, 2018
“You can’t really know where you are going until you know where you have been” — Maya Angelou
ORWH took a multi-resource, iterative approach to strategic planning, with a strong focus on stakeholder input.

**Identify potential priorities for research on women’s health**

1. Solicit input from external & internal stakeholders
2. Analyze & consider input
3. Revise priorities

**CORE Stakeholder Groups**

- ORWH Strategic Plan Organization Team (SPOT)
- Trans-NIH SABV Working Group
- NIH Coordinating Committee for Research on Women’s Health (CCRWH)
- NIH Advisory Committee for Research on Women’s Health (ACRWH)
- NIH *Raising the Bar* Working Group
RFI Methods & Results

• Sep. 12 – Nov. 10, 2017

• 145 responses*
  ✓ Researcher 46%
  ✓ Federal 18%
  ✓ Advocate 17%
  ✓ Clinician 15%
  ✓ Other/Unknown 14%
  ✓ Patient 7%

• 45 broad thematic categories

*Multiple response selection permitted; consequently, percentages sum to more than 100%.
45 Categories informed the development of 5 strategic goals.
Refining the plan involved the NIH broadly, as well as external stakeholders

- NIH Council of Councils
- IC Director Meetings
- CCRWH
- ACRWH Strategic Plan *Working Group*
- NIH Strategic Plan Teams
Trans-NIH strategic plan teams collaborated to develop the final goals and objectives

**Purpose:** To contribute to the development, implementation, and dissemination of the 2019 – 2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women’s Health Research

Each team co-led by ORWH team member & ICO scientist/colleague

**Membership:** 102 NIH staff representing 22 ICs and multiple offices of the OD
NIH Coordinating Committee for Research on Women’s Health members were critical partners

- Consistent engagement
- Critical input
- Supportive for staff engagement
- *Agents for implementation*
Thank you 2017-2018 ACRWH Members & ORWH for contributing to the Strategic Plan!
ACRWH Working Group – Report 2019-2023 Trans-NIH Strategic Plan
Carolyn M. Mazure Ph.D.

Process: broad engagement by the full committee & working group, iterative & responsive to feedback

Plan: cross-cutting themes as guiding principles, provides goals & objectives

NIH commitment to the health of women: affirmed

ACRWH: poised to support the effective dissemination, evaluation and implementation within & among NIH Institutes & Centers
Advancing Science for the Health of Women

**NIH Institute & Center Mission Areas**

**ORWH 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
- To improve the advancement of women in biomedical careers

**NIH 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
- Women in science careers reach their full potential

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Trans-NIH Strategic Plan for Women's Health Research
Women's Health Research is research that is *relevant* to the health of women.

The **Health of Women** encompasses all diseases & conditions that affect a woman from head to toe and recognizes that individual-level biological factors interact with numerous influences across a woman’s life course.
Science that will improve the health of women is guided by 3 principles

- Inclusion of women, especially populations known to experience a disproportionate burden of illness

- Engagement of multiple perspectives especially researchers with diverse skills, knowledge, and experiences

- Consideration of the complex intersection among multiple biological factors and the context of a women’s life
Principle: Inclusion of women, especially populations known to experience a disproportionate burden of illness

Research must be relevant to the health experiences of all women at every age & every stage

Designated U.S. health disparity populations:
- Blacks/African Americans; Hispanics/Latinos
- American Indians/Alaska Natives; Asian Americans
- Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders
- Socioeconomically disadvantaged; Underserved rural
- Sexual and gender minorities

Pregnant and Lactating women

Other populations e.g. physical and developmental disability
Principle: Engagement of multiple perspectives especially researchers with diverse skills, knowledge & experiences
Principle: Consideration of the complex intersection among multiple biological factors and the context of a women’s life

The Health of Women Across the Life Course

Women in Context—External Factors
such as gender, social determinants of health, behaviors, environment, and policies

Preconception
In Utero
Childhood
Adolescence
Adulthood

Interaction

Biological Perspective—Internal Factors
such as sex influences at genetic, molecular, cellular, and physiological levels

Interaction

NIH
National Institutes of Health
Office of Research on Women’s Health
The ultimate aim of advancing science for the health of women requires the pursuit of several goals.
Goal 1: Advance Rigorous Research that is Relevant to the health of women

- Discover biological differences between males & females
- Investigate influences of sex & gender on health & illness
- Identify the effects of exposures across the life course
- Explore the influence of sex & gender on the mind-body connection
- Expand research on female-specific conditions & diseases
Goal 2: Develop Methods & Leverage Data Sources that consider sex & gender influences

- Expand approaches to detect influence of sex & gender
- Develop & adapt measures
- Leverage secondary data sources
- Expand methods to recruit & retain understudied women

Sequencing flow cell & microarray chip (image: Thomas Shafee, 2017; CC BY 4.0)
Goal 3: Enhance Dissemination & Implementation of evidence to improve the health of women

- Design & test approaches to integrate evidence into practice
- Leverage partnerships to disseminate research
Goal 4: Promote Training & Careers to develop a well-trained, diverse & robust workforce to advance science for the health of women

- Enhance knowledge of sex & gender influences: researchers & providers
- Develop the next generation of women’s health researchers
- Enhance & develop programs to support women in research careers
- Promote & support efforts to retain & advance women in research careers
- Promote research on barriers & interventions to retain & advance women
Goal 5: Improve Evaluation of research that is relevant to the health of women

- Optimize the identification of research that is relevant to the health of women
- Implement systematic tracking & evaluation
- Identify research priorities for funding
The *strategic plan for women’s health research* operates in synergy with the **NIH-Wide Strategic Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women’s Health Research</th>
<th>NIH-Wide</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advance Rigorous Research Relevant to the Health of Women</td>
<td>Advance Opportunities in Biomedical Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop Methods and Leverage Data Sources to consider sex and gender influences</td>
<td>Enhance Scientific Stewardship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enhance Dissemination and Implementation of evidence to improve the health of women</td>
<td>Foster Innovation by Setting NIH Priorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Promote Training and Careers to develop a well-trained, diverse, and robust workforce</td>
<td>Excel as a Federal Science Agency by Managing for Results</td>
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<td>Improve Evaluation of research</td>
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To *Advance Science for the Health of Women* – the NIH needs you!

- Connect with networks, research and beyond
- Serve as Ambassadors for a multidimensional framework, for the inclusion of all women, and for interdisciplinary research
- Advocate for the plan & SABV- e.g. on editorial boards
- Disseminate in presentations
- Advise the NIH on its impact in the ‘real world’
A resource for you