

The National Institutes of Health is composed of 27 Institutes and Centers, with the National Cancer Institute (NCI) being the oldest and the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB) the youngest. Medical physicists have a major stake in the pursuits of these institutes since they have a large influence on everything from the research that is funded to the clinical protocols and methods that are employed in both therapy and diagnosis.

Yet these institutes are themselves experiencing very significant extrinsic and intrinsic factors that affect the ways that they interact with the medical community. A partial list would include: the NIH budget in the post-doubling period; the creation of NIH-wide Roadmap Initiatives and NCI-wide Enterprise Initiatives; the adaptation of the NIBIB to the other Institutes; budget set-asides for the war on terrorism; the dawning of translational research methods; the blurring of boundaries between disciplines; and an increasing role for industry, to name a few.

The ramifications of these changes will be explored with regard to the institute budgets, priorities and relationships; and the presentation will outline some of the current research agendas and the mechanisms which are used to implement them.

Educational Objectives:

1. Understand the structure and processes involved in NIH funded research.
2. Understand the issues surrounding the NIH budget
3. Understand how to develop a research proposal