

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES PROFILE National Institutes of Health (NIH)

NORDP Liaison: Jennifer Webster, jwebster@utk.edu

Liaison Organization Name, Location, and Website: The National Institutes of Health, Bethesda MD, www.nih.gov

Organization Contact Name, Title, and Email Address: Not applicable (see overview, below)

Organization Overview: The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the nation's medical research agency — making important discoveries that improve health and save lives. NIH's mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. The NIH is made up of 27 different components called Institutes and Centers. Each has its own specific research agenda, often focusing on particular diseases or body systems. All but three of these components receive their funding directly from Congress and administrate their own budgets. NIH leadership plays an active role in shaping the agency's research planning, activities, and outlook. The NIH invests nearly \$39.2 billion annually in medical research for the American people. More than 80% of the NIH's funding is awarded through almost 50,000 competitive grants to more than 300,000 researchers at more than 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state and around the world. About 10% of the NIH's budget supports projects conducted by nearly 6,000 scientists in its own laboratories, most of which are on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

Common Interest Areas between NORDP and the Liaison Organization: NIH is a huge organization and the primary funder of biomedical research in the US. That funding is of enormous interest to NORDP as we help our researchers navigate the extensive requirements to secure NIH funding. NIH maintains an active extramural outreach program that regularly solicits feedback from the research community it serves, and NORDP liaisons can help fill communication gaps between the organization and our scientists.

Annual Conference and Other Events of Interest; Connection Suggestions: The NIH Regional Seminar on Program Funding and Grants Administration is typically held twice annually (on the east coast in spring and on the west coast in fall). These seminars are intended to help demystify the application and review process, clarify Federal regulations and policies, and highlight current areas of special interest or concern. The seminars serve the NIH mission of providing education and training for the next generation of biomedical and behavioral scientists. NIH policy, grants management, review, and program staff provide a broad array of expertise and encourage personal interaction between themselves and seminar participants. The seminars are appropriate for grants administrators, researchers new to NIH, and graduate students.