

# Behavioral Research Program (BRP)

Behavioral research in the context of cancer control is the study of the initiation, conclusion, or maintenance of actions to prevent, detect, or ameliorate the effects of cancer. Behavioral scientists are particularly interested in elucidating the behavioral and psychosocial antecedents that predict or influence health outcomes.

The Behavioral Research Program (**BRP**) is within the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. BRP initiates, supports, and evaluates a comprehensive program of research ranging from basic behavioral research to the development, testing, and dissemination of interventions in areas such as tobacco use, screening, dietary behavior, and sun protection.

Our goal is to increase the breadth, depth, and quality of behavioral research in cancer prevention and control.



**Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch (BBPSB)**

**Health Behaviors Research Branch (HBRB)**

**Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB)**

**Process of Care Research Branch (PCRB)**

**Science of Research and Technology Branch (SRTB)**

**Tobacco Control Research Branch (TCRB)**

## Program Leadership



William Klein, PhD  
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View the complete staff list with research areas and contact information; learn more about our network of mentorship and collaboration; and browse career and training announcements at [staffprofiles.cancer.gov/brp](http://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/brp) and [behavioralresearch.cancer.gov](http://behavioralresearch.cancer.gov).



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## Key Initiatives, Tools, and Resources

- Health Information National Trends Survey (**HINTS**)
- Smokefree.gov and Smokefree Women
- Grid-Enabled Measures (**GEM**)
- Classification of Laws Associated with School Students (**CLASS**)
- Tobacco Control Monograph Series
- Informatics for Consumer Health
- Food Attitudes and Behaviors (**FAB**)
- Team Science Toolkit
- Centers of Excellence in Cancer Communication (**CECCR**)
- Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer (**TREC**)
- State and Community Tobacco Control Policy and Media Research
- National Cancer Institute Network on Biobehavioral Pathways in Cancer
- Cognitive, Affective, and Social Processes in Health Research (**CASPHR**) Workgroup
- Decisionmaking in Clinical Contexts

# Funding

Major funding areas include research project grants, Cancer Centers and Centers of Excellence, and R&D contracts. Although many investigator-initiated (unsolicited) applications are received for new, expanded, and/or high-priority programs, BRP may also support grant applications through program announcements (PA) or Request for Applications (RFA) in a specific area of interest.

Research priorities are defined in each of the branch missions:

- **BBPSB** advances research in biobehavioral mechanisms and psychological processes to reduce cancer risk and improve outcomes
- **HBRB** supports research on cancer prevention behaviors and outcomes, which include diet, physical activity, sedentary behavior, energy balance, obesity, sun safety and indoor tanning, genetic influences on behaviors, and virus exposure; it provides leadership in these areas by focusing research on effective multi-level influences and approaches to individual, relational, environmental, and community-based interventions
- **HCIRB** supports research that examines the fundamental processes and effects of health communication and informatics on cancer-related outcomes across the cancer control continuum via interpersonal, patient-provider, print, electronic, mass media, mobile, and technology-mediated mechanisms
- **PCRB** supports and encourages behavioral research on how individuals, teams, and health care organizations can act and interact more effectively to improve health through health care delivery
- **SRTB** leads and supports the development and application of innovative research approaches, theories, methods, measures, analytic tools, and technologies to advance social and behavioral science in the context of cancer prevention and control
- **TCRB** leads and collaborates on research and disseminates evidence-based findings to prevent, treat, and control tobacco use

## TIP!

BRP encourages applicants to submit cover letters for unsolicited/investigator-initiated applications to help ensure proper referral.

## Select Funding Opportunity Announcements in BRP (updated July 2012)

### PA-11-260 Research Project Grant (Parent R01)

Expires September 8, 2014

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-260.html>

Go to [staffprofiles.cancer.gov/BRP](http://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/BRP) to find a Program Director in a relevant area of scientific expertise to discuss your application

### PA-12-145 NCI Exploratory Research Grant (NCI Omnibus R21)

Expires September 8, 2015

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-145.html>

Go to [staffprofiles.cancer.gov/BRP](http://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/BRP) to find a Program Director in a relevant area of scientific expertise to discuss your application

### Small Grants for Behavioral Research in Cancer Control (R03)

Expires October 19, 2012

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-12-035.html>

**Contact: Gina Tesauro, MSW**  
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A complete list of funding opportunities for BRP and the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences can be found at [cancercontrol.cancer.gov/funding\\_apply.html](http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/funding_apply.html) and [behavioralresearch.cancer.gov](http://behavioralresearch.cancer.gov).

## Areas of scientific emphasis

- Biological mechanisms of psychosocial processes related to prevention, detection, treatment, and maintenance of healthy lifestyle behaviors
- Predictors of diet, weight, physical activity, and tobacco use
- Risk perception and communication of health information to public, patients, and providers
- Surveillance of communication outcomes and new media channels of communication
- Social and behavioral research on the use of effective cancer screening tests

**Behavioral Research at the National Cancer Institute**  
[behavioralresearch.cancer.gov](http://behavioralresearch.cancer.gov)

