

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.



BRANCHES

Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch (BBPSB)

Health Behaviors Research Branch (HBRB)

Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB)

Science of Research and Technology Branch (SRTB)

Tobacco Control Research Branch (TCRB)

Program Leadership



William Klein
Associate Director, BRP
William.Klein2@nih.gov

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 and behavioralresearch.cancer.gov.



Tanya Agurs-Collins
Acting Chief, HBRB
Tanya.Agurs-Collins@nih.gov



Michele Bloch
Chief, TCRB
Michele.Bloch@nih.gov



Paige Green
Chief, BBPSB
greenpa@nih.gov



Bradford Hesse
Chief, HCIRB
Bradford.Hesse@nih.gov



Linda Nebeling
Deputy Associate Director
Linda.Nebeling@nih.gov



William Riley
Chief, SRTB
William.Riley@nih.gov



Jerry Suls
Senior Scientist
Jerry.Suls@nih.gov

Programmatic Priority Areas

- **Cancer-related Health Behaviors**
Modifiable behavioral risk factors including tobacco use, energy balance, and sun exposure
- **Biopsychosocial Processes of Cancer-Related Behaviors**
Biological, psychological, and social mechanisms related to cancer prevention, detection, and treatment; and maintenance of healthy lifestyle behaviors
- **Communication, Decision Science, and Policy in Cancer Control**
Communication of health information to public, patients, providers, and policy-makers; effects on decision making and behavior
- **Analytic Methods and New Technologies**
Surveillance of social and behavioral predictors of health and the use of big data, theory, and new technologies

Behavioral Research at the National Cancer Institute—<http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/index.html>

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 Requests for Applications (**RFA**) in a specific area of interest.

Research priorities are defined in each of the branch missions; you are also encouraged to contact Program staff to learn more about behavioral research at the National Cancer Institute.

- **BBPSB** advances research in biobehavioral mechanisms and psychological processes to reduce cancer risk and improve outcomes
- **HBRB** supports leadership and research on multi-level approaches to individual, relational, environmental, and community-based interventions on cancer prevention behaviors and outcomes, including diet, physical activity, sun safety and indoor tanning, genetic influences on behaviors, and virus exposure
- **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
- **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!

Applicants may submit cover letters for unsolicited/ investigator-initiated applications to help ensure proper referral.

Select Funding Opportunity Announcements in BRP (updated May 2015)

Fundamental Mechanisms of Affective and Decisional Processes in Cancer Control
PAR-14-067 (U01)
 Expires: October 15, 2016

Contact: Rebecca Ferrer
 240-276-6914
rebecca.ferrer@nih.gov

Smoking Cessation within the Context of Lung Cancer Screening (R01)

Contact: Stephanie Land
 240-276-6946
stephanie.land@nih.gov

A complete list of funding opportunities for BRP can be found at <http://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/funding.html>

Key Initiatives, Tools, and Resources

- Cognitive, Affective, and Social Processes in Health Research (CASPHR) Workgroup
- Classification of Laws Associated with School Students (CLASS)
- Decision-Making Steering Committee
- Family Life, Activity, Sun, Health, and Eating (FLASHE) Study
- Grid-Enabled Measures (GEM)
- Health Disparities Research
- Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)
- National Cancer Institute Network on Biobehavioral Pathways in Cancer
- Smokefree.gov & Smokefree Women
- State and Community Tobacco Control Policy and Media Research
- Tobacco Control Monograph Series

