



APPENDICES: 2020–2030 STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NIH NUTRITION RESEARCH

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APPENDIX A: PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR NIH NUTRITION RESEARCH

To coordinate and accelerate progress in nutrition research, Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, established the Nutrition Research Task Force in 2016 to develop and implement this first trans-agency, 10-year *Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research*. The Task Force is chaired by Dr. Griffin P. Rodgers, Director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), with support from the NIDDK's Office of Nutrition Research. Co-chairs are Dr. Gary Gibbons, Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute; Dr. Norman Sharpless, Director, of the National Cancer Institute; and Dr. Diana W. Bianchi, Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. To accomplish its mission, the Task Force formed a trans-NIH Nutrition Senior Leadership Group along with a Working Group drawn from many Institutes, Centers, and Offices within NIH (see Appendix C for a full membership list).

To obtain information about research gaps and opportunities that should be addressed by this Strategic Plan, the NRTF sought the assistance of the external nutrition research community through several mechanisms.

- A scan of recent literature and existing strategic planning efforts was conducted to identify research gaps that had been captured by other federal agencies, professional societies, and researchers working across the field of nutrition.
- An online crowdsourcing platform was used to solicit information from the public about the critical gaps and opportunities in nutrition research that should be addressed by the NIH over the next 10 years. Invitations encouraging participation in the crowdsourcing effort were sent to more than 40 professional

societies and thousands of academic researchers. A link to the crowdsourcing webpage also was available on the Office of Nutrition Research website.¹

- Outreach and coordination through ICHNR contacts with other Federal agencies involved in nutrition research or nutrition research stakeholders including FDA, USDA, CDC, DOD, OASH, etc.
- The nutrition-related research gaps and opportunities gleaned from the literature search and crowdsourcing efforts were combined into one comprehensive document that was shared with a Thought Leader Panel of 30 external experts from across diverse areas of nutrition science (see Appendix D for a list of panelists). Each of these experts was invited to provide his or her own ideas and suggestions for prioritizing these research opportunities.
- A draft of the Strategic Plan was made available for a month-long public comment period. Notices encouraging comments on the draft were broadly distributed to stakeholders, including members of the scientific community, academic institutions, the private sector, health professionals, professional societies, advocacy groups, and patient communities, as well as other interested members of the public, including through a Request for Information.²

After reviewing the individual suggestions from members of the Thought Leader Panel, the broader nutrition research community, and the public comment period, members of the Task Force identified a unifying vision of Precision Nutrition, underpinned by four Strategic Goals and five Cross-Cutting Research Areas that reflect the research priorities they felt were most important to encourage among both the extramural scientific community and the NIH intramural research program.

1. Office of Nutrition Research website: <https://www.niddk.nih.gov/about-niddk/offices-divisions/office-nutrition-research>

2. Request for Information (RFI): Soliciting Input on the Draft Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research, Notice Number: NOT-DK-19-004, <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-DK-19-004.html>

APPENDIX B: COORDINATION ACROSS U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

The purpose of the Strategic Plan is to build a framework to answer important nutrition research questions over the next 10 years, to advance nutrition science, and, ultimately, to improve health and reduce the burden of disease. Interagency collaboration on these efforts is a critical element to achieve these objectives. This Plan was developed by engaging federal partners to ensure that identified research opportunities will address their needs and complement efforts initiated across the Federal Government.

The NRTF will take multiple approaches to lead and participate in coordinated and collaborative efforts with federal partners to fund and harmonize research, dissemination, and implementation through the following key activities, in addition to new and other ongoing efforts:

Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research (ICHNR)

The Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research (ICHNR) aims to increase the overall effectiveness and productivity of federally supported or conducted human nutrition research. Created in 1983 and reassembled in 2013, the ICHNR is charged with improving the planning, coordination, and communication among federal agencies engaged in nutrition research and with facilitating the development and updating of plans for federal research programs to meet current and future domestic and international needs for nutrition. The ICHNR is chaired by the Assistant Secretary for Health (ASH) for HHS and the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics and Chief Scientist for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Director of the NIDDK Office of Nutrition Research (ONR) serves as the HHS Co-Executive Secretary of the ICHNR for the ASH. The ONR Director, along with other members of the NIH Nutrition Research

Task Force, help to set ICHNR agendas and bring forward opportunities for research coordination.

The members of the ICHNR include agency-appointed representatives from federal agencies conducting nutrition research along with agencies that are research stakeholders. Agencies involved include the U.S. Departments of Agriculture (USDA), Health and Human Services (HHS), and Defense (DoD), along with Commerce; the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Agency for International Development (USAID), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

The ICHNR includes several workgroups and subcommittees, which provide further opportunity for interagency collaboration and discussion. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The **Subcommittee on Dietary Reference Intakes** oversees the establishment of [Dietary Reference Intakes](#) (DRIs). DRIs are nutrient reference values developed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The DRIs are intended to serve as a guide for nutritional intake and provide the scientific basis for the development of food guidelines in both the United States and Canada. These nutrient reference values are specified based on age, gender and life stage and cover more than 40 nutrient substances. Government coordination of DRI-related activities is a joint effort between representatives of the U.S. and Canadian governments. The U.S.-Canada Joint DRI Working Group and the ICHNR Subcommittee on Dietary Reference Intakes work together to develop an efficient process that ensures DRI values continue to be scientifically

sound, current, and useful for public health purposes. This includes identifying DRI needs and prioritizing nutrient reviews, advancing work to resolve methodology issues, and coordinating funding for new DRI reviews. Recent activities include:

- The DRI Working Group sponsored two NASEM consensus studies: *Guiding Principles for Developing Dietary Reference Intakes Based on Chronic Disease* which was established after a deliberate nomination process to prioritize re-reviews of DRIs and three high priority nutrients all potentially affecting chronic disease endpoints, and *Dietary Reference Intakes for Sodium and Potassium* (released March 2019)
- Efforts to secure a steady funding source for DRI reviews to ensure that they reflect the preponderance of evidence available and are scientifically sound.
- **Subcommittee on Dietary Guidance** seeks to gain perspectives from federal stakeholders regarding the deliberations of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and identify any gaps or concerns that are important to federal programs and to engage USDA and HHS agencies in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans policy development process.

NIH Nutrition Research Coordinating Committee (NRCC)

The NIH Nutrition Research Coordinating Committee (NRCC) was originally established in 1975 for the primary purpose of reviewing, discussing, and stimulating support for nutrition research and training within the NIH. Later, it initiated efforts aimed at trans-federal coordination. Today, the NRCC is a vibrant group whose membership includes representatives and interested staff from NIH Institutes, Centers, Offices, and other federal agencies within and outside of HHS, including FDA, CDC, DoD, and USDA. In contrast to the ICHNR, NRCC members do not require appointment. Thus, the NRCC features a large membership of trans-NIH and trans-federal staff that are either leading or conducting

nutrition research or serve as nutrition research stakeholders (e.g., those working on federal nutritional guidelines, support, implementation, disease prevention, food safety, and regulations).

The grass-roots nature of the NRCC and frequency of meetings allows it to coordinate and facilitate the vetting of potential nutrition research initiatives to address priorities identified in the Strategic Plan before they are moved forward for implementation or discussion at the ICHNR level. The NRCC is chaired by the Director of the NIDDK Office of Nutrition Research. NRCC meetings occur monthly and typically include scientific seminars, nutrition research program and policy updates, information about research interests, and updates on collaborative project activities undertaken by the NIH or across the Federal Government (such as Dietary Reference Intake activities and those described in the section on the Federal Data Consortium on Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months below).

The Federal Data Consortium on Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months (P/B-24, Data Consortium)

The Federal Data Consortium on Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months is a federal forum for sharing information and finding solutions to resolve crucial needs for data on pregnancy and early childhood populations to inform public health initiatives. The collaboration is open to any U.S. federal employee and currently spans 185 federal staff and leaders from 30 agencies in five Departments (HHS, USDA, USAID, EPA, and DoD). The Data Consortium is co-led by representatives of ODPHP, CDC, NIH, and FDA of HHS and ARS and FNS of USDA.

The Data Consortium arose out of work by ODPHP/OASH in 2016 to coordinate requests for “special studies” from CDC’s National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) to fill crucial needs for data on P/B24 populations to support future Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA) in providing science-based food-based recommendations to help promote health and prevent chronic disease. However,

as the Data Consortium has demonstrated, the essentiality for these data goes beyond the needs of the DGA; over a dozen Federal agencies have funded projects coordinated by the Data Consortium and focused on filling critical gaps in scientific knowledge to support evidence-based programs, policies, and educational initiatives across the government and non-government sectors.

The work of the Federal Data Consortium on P/B24, supported by NIH and other Agencies, has resulted in several current initiatives including, but not limited to:

- New B-24 questionnaire content in the NHANES Diet and Behavior Questionnaire
- A pilot study to determine the feasibility of collecting venous blood samples from children under 1 year of age in NHANES, currently only collected from ages 1 year and older

FDA-NIH Joint Agency on Nutrition (JAN) Working Group

The FDA-NIH Joint Agency on Nutrition (JAN) Working Group was formed in 2016 by the FDA-NIH Joint Leadership Council to facilitate high-quality nutrition research to improve public health outcomes across the lifespan in order to: 1) reduce the risk factors for and incidence of nutrition-related chronic disease; and 2) to inform nutrition-related regulatory decision-making and consumer outreach/education related to nutrition. The JAN Working Group is co-chaired by the Director of the NIDDK Office of Nutrition Research and the Director of the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition). Members of the NIH Nutrition Research Task Force also participate in this Working Group.

National Food and Nutrient Analysis Program (NFNAP)

Federal food and dietary supplement product database activities have been coordinated through the National Food and Nutrient Analysis Program (NFNAP) initiative since 1997. NFNAP is directed by the USDA/

ARS Methods and Application of Food Composition Laboratory (newly formed from a consolidation of the Nutrient Data Laboratory and the Food Composition and Methods Development Laboratory) in collaboration with the NCI and the ODS, along with other NIH Offices and Institutes and the FDA, including members of the NRTF.

The five Specific Aims of NFNAP are to: 1) Institute a monitoring program for Key Foods and critical nutrients. To date, approximately 1,400 foods have been sampled and analyzed; 2) conduct comprehensive analyses of selected Key Foods; 3) develop databases for high priority foods consumed by U.S. ethnic subpopulations; 4) develop databases for new bioactive components; and 5) develop a validated database for ingredients in dietary supplements. For each Specific Aim, the process includes the identification of foods for analysis, the development of unique statistically based sampling plans, and the application of validated analytical chemistry. The primary outcome of the Program is to develop comprehensive nutrient composition databases having unprecedented analytical quality.

Pathways to Prevention (P2P) Workshops

These workshops identify research gaps in selected scientific areas, identify scientific and methodological weaknesses, suggest research needs and gaps, and advance the field forward based on these identified research needs. NIH's Office of Disease Prevention provides the leadership and infrastructure and coordination of the P2P workshops. Each workshop is planned in collaboration with partners across NIH, and other federal agencies (e.g., Centers for Disease Control), external experts, and other external stakeholders.

Coordination of Inter-Agency Research Opportunities

Inter-Agency Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding enable agencies to share resources and expertise in pursuit of a common research goal. Examples of existing collaborations that will facilitate achievement of objectives prioritized in the Strategic

Plan are described below. New collaborations will be facilitated through efforts by the NRTF.

- **Inter-Agency Agreement (Diet-Genetic Interactions — Metabolic Pathways Influenced by Intake of Dietary Compounds):** The National Cancer Institute Division of Cancer Prevention and the U.S. Department of Agriculture collaborate on an ongoing research program to translate promising pre-clinical studies on diet and cancer to human trials. The overall goal of the on-going collaboration between the National Cancer Institute, Division of Cancer Prevention, Nutritional Sciences Research Group and the USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, Components and Health Laboratory is to investigate the potential efficacy of promising cancer-preventative dietary components and foods in clinical feeding studies and to identify metabolic pathways affected by their consumption as well as to determine mechanisms of action from such dietary intake. Studies have included polyphenols from berries, lycopene, beta-carotene and vitamin A from consumption of tomato juice, and isothiocyanates from cruciferous vegetables. This Inter-Agency Agreement capitalizes on joint expertise of the Nutritional Sciences Research Group and the USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center to conduct analyses on samples from human feeding interventions to help jump start investigations about the role of diet in cancer prevention.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (Interagency collaborative interactions for Dietary Biomarkers of Intake):** There is a critical need to establish the association between dietary intake and pathophysiology of disease and for developing dietary guidelines based on sound scientific evidence. In this connection, the National Institute of Diabetes, and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and US Department of Agriculture-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to collaboratively participate in a joint Funding Opportunity to foster and stimulate dietary biomarkers research. Nutrition research benefits from such initiatives and advances our knowledge on

food specific molecular signatures and biomarkers of food intake to further advance our understanding of the pathophysiology, and paves way for personalized nutrition. This collective effort addresses these specific gaps and leverages the resources, expertise and the knowledge created by these agencies.

Dietary Guidelines for Americans

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans are the foundation of federal food and nutrition programs, policies, and education initiatives. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans are jointly issued and updated by the USDA and HHS every five years, as required by law. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans are informed by a scientific report prepared by a federal advisory committee and comments received from federal agencies, industry, organizations, and consumers. The most current version is the 2015–2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans with the 2020–2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans development process under way. Several NRTF members contribute to this effort.

In February 2014, Congress passed the Agricultural Act of 2014, also known as the Farm Bill, mandating that the Dietary Guidelines expand to include dietary guidance for infants and toddlers (from birth to age 24 months), as well as women who are pregnant, beginning with the 2020–2025 edition. Also commencing with the 2020–2025 edition, the USDA and HHS identified relevant topics and scientific questions to be examined by the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee prior to establishing the Committee. The Departments added this step to promote a deliberate and transparent process, respond to feedback on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans development process, identify expertise needed on the Committee, help manage resources, and ensure the scientific review conducted by the Committee addresses federal nutrition policy and program needs. Research priorities in the Strategic Plan were identified in part to address unanswered questions identified through past Dietary Guideline efforts and to ensure that there is a robust body of evidence available to inform future dietary recommendations.

Healthy People

Healthy People is a national health promotion and disease prevention agenda that provides a framework to achieve ten-year goals and objectives to improve the nation's health. The Healthy People initiative, which began more than thirty years ago, is grounded in the principle that setting national health objectives, and monitoring progress toward achieving them, can motivate action.

Healthy People objectives are organized within distinct topic areas, for which multiple agencies provide leadership. The NIH co-leads many of the topic areas, including

the Nutrition and Weight Status Topic Area. For more information about objectives that monitor access to healthier foods, weight reduction and nutritional counseling in health care and worksite settings, weight status, food insecurity, food and nutrient consumption, and iron deficiency, view the [Healthy People 2020 Midcourse Review for Nutrition and Weight Status](#).

In 2020, a new set of science-based, 10-year national objectives—*Healthy People 2030*—will be launched with the goal of improving the health of all Americans by 2030. The development of *Healthy People 2030* included establishing a [framework](#) for the initiative and identifying new objectives.

APPENDIX C: MEMBERSHIP OF THE NIH NUTRITION RESEARCH TASK FORCE

NUTRITION RESEARCH TASK FORCE (NRTF) CHAIR and Co-CHAIRS*

Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D., M.A.C.P. — Director, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (Chair)

Diana W. Bianchi, M.D. — Director, *Eunice Kennedy Shriver* National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (Co-Chair)

Gary H. Gibbons, M.D. — Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (Co-Chair)

Norman E. Sharpless, M.D. — Director, National Cancer Institute (Co-Chair)

***Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.** — Acting Director (2016–2017, 2019), National Cancer Institute (Co-Chair)

NRTF SENIOR LEADERSHIP GROUP

Andrew Bremer, M.D., Ph.D.	<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Victor Kipnis, Ph.D.	National Cancer Institute
Susan M. Krebs-Smith, Ph.D.	National Cancer Institute
Christopher Lynch, Ph.D. (NRTF Executive Secretary)	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Andrew Narva, M.D.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Charlotte Pratt, Ph.D., M.S., R.D.	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute
Jill Reedy, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D.	National Cancer Institute
Amy Subar, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D.	National Cancer Institute

(note- some members have retired)

NRTF WORKING GROUP

Lynn Adams, Ph.D.	National Institute of Nursing Research
Patrice Armstrong, Ph.D.	National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities
Rachel Ballard, M.D., M.P.H.	Office of Disease Prevention
Rosalind Breslow, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D.	National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
Lawrence Brody, Ph.D.	National Human Genome Research Institute
Mary Cutting, M.S., R.A.C.	National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research
Cindy Davis, Ph.D.	Office of Dietary Supplements
Abby Ershow, Sc.D., R.D.	Office of Dietary Supplements
Mary Evans, Ph.D.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Rachel Fisher, M.S., M.P.H., R.D.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Roberto Flores, Ph.D., M.P.H.	National Cancer Institute
Kevin Hall, Ph.D.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Jean Harry, Ph.D.	National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
Mark Levine, M.D.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Roger Little, Ph.D.	National Institute on Drug Abuse
Padma Maruvada, Ph.D.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Kathy Michels, Ph.D.	Fogarty International Center
Steven C. Moore, Ph.D.	National Cancer Institute
Linda Nebeling, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D.	National Cancer Institute
Holly Nicastro, Ph.D., M.P.H.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Voula Osganian, M.D., Sc.D., M.P.H.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Dan Raiten, Ph.D.	<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development
Karen Regan, M.S., R.D.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
Sharon Ross, Ph.D., M.P.H.	National Cancer Institute
Kristina Rother, M.D., M.H.Sc.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
David Saslowsky, Ph.D.	National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
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Pothur Srinivas, Ph.D., M.P.H.	National Cancer Institute
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Susan Vorkoper, M.P.H., M.S.W.	Fogarty International Center
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Deborah Young-Hyman, Ph.D.	Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research
Giovanna Zappalà, Ph.D., M.P.H.	National Institute on Aging
Cuilin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.	<i>Eunice Kennedy Shriver</i> National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

APPENDIX D: MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN THOUGHT LEADER PANEL

As part of a larger effort to gather broad stakeholder contributions to the development of this Strategic Plan, the NIH Nutrition Research Task Force invited individual external experts from across diverse areas of nutrition science to participate in a two-day meeting in June 2017 as part of a Thought Leader Panel. Panel members and their affiliations are listed below.

Panel Member Name	Panel Member Organization
Lindsay H. Allen, Ph.D.	United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and University of California, Davis
David B. Allison, Ph.D.	Indiana University
Cheryl A.M. Anderson, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.S.	University of California, San Diego
Rozalyn M. Anderson, Ph.D.	University of Wisconsin
David J. Baer, Ph.D.	United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
Teresa A. Davis, Ph.D.	Baylor College of Medicine
Michael K. Georgieff, M.D.	University of Minnesota
Penny Gordon-Larsen, Ph.D.	University of North Carolina
James R. Hébert, Sc.D.	University of South Carolina
Frank Hu, M.D., Ph.D., M.P.H.	Harvard University
Dushanka V. Kleinman, D.D.S., M.Sc.D.	University of Maryland
David M. Klurfeld, Ph.D.	United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
Nancy F. Krebs, M.D., M.S.	University of Colorado
Bruce Y. Lee, M.D., M.B.A.	City University of New York
Danny Manor, Ph.D.	Case Western Reserve University
Nilesh M. Mehta, M.D.	Harvard University
Julie A. Mennella, Ph.D.	Monell Chemical Senses Center
Simin N. Meydani, D.V.M., Ph.D.	Tufts University
Christopher B. Newgard, Ph.D.	Duke University
Diane M. O'Brien, Ph.D.	University of Alaska Fairbanks
Karen E. Peterson, D.Sc.	University of Michigan
Ross L. Prentice, Ph.D.	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
W. Sue Ritter, Ph.D.	Washington State University
A. Catharine Ross, Ph.D.	Pennsylvania State University
Cary R. Savage, Ph.D.	University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska
Alison Steiber, Ph.D., R.D.N.	Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Patrick J. Stover, Ph.D. – Panel Chair	Texas A&M University
Linda V. Van Horn, Ph.D., R.D.	Northwestern University
Gary D. Wu, M.D.	University of Pennsylvania
Thomas R. Ziegler, M.D.	Emory University



APPENDIX E: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The NIH Nutrition Research Task Force appreciates the extensive comments provided throughout the development of this Strategic Plan by staff of the NIH and other federal health agencies (including members of the Task Force Senior Leadership Group, Working Group, NIH Nutrition Research Coordinating Committee, and others), members of the Thought Leader Panel, representatives of nutrition-related professional societies and advocacy groups, individual investigators, and the public. We also thank the staff of the NIDDK Office of Nutrition Research and the NIDDK Office of Scientific Program and Policy Analysis for their instrumental role in this planning effort. We also thank Dr. Alison Davis, who provided editorial support.