**NIH and Birth Defects Research: Current Funding and Future Opportunities**

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The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is comprised of the Office of the Director (OD) along with 27 Institutes and Centers (ICs) each with its own specific research agenda. Birth defects research is scattered among at least nine of these Institutes with the Office of Rare Disease Research and the Office of Dietary Supplements (housed in the OD) having an interest as well. The research mission of many of these Institutes focuses on a specific anatomical region (e.g., heart, brain, skeleton, kidney, eye, or ear). However, the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development has a much broader mission – the health and wellbeing of mothers and children – that encompasses research on structural birth defects, intellectual disabilities, and newborn screening among other areas.

A brief overview of some NIH-funded consortia, networks, working groups, and programs dealing with birth defects across ICs will be presented to illustrate the breadth of this research. An introduction to the granting process at NIH will be discussed, including the types of mechanisms used to support birth defects research and the role of the Program Officer in helping potential applicants. Finally, some current funding opportunities will be highlighted and how State agencies can partner with academic researchers to apply for grants will be considered.

**NIEHS Children’s Environmental Health Research Opportunities**

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NIEHS along with US EPA supports a joint program referred to as the Centers for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention. These Centers examine the effect of environmental exposures on children's health through a multidisciplinary research approach including basic, applied, and community-based participatory research. The Centers include a Community and Outreach Translation Core whose purpose is to expedite translation of research findings to the clinical and public health professionals, community and policy makers to protect children from environmental threats.

The long-range goals of this program include: (1) stimulate new and expand existing research on the role of environment in the etiology of disease/dysfunction among children, (2) develop novel effective intervention and prevention strategies, and (3) promote translation of basic research findings into applied intervention and prevention methods, thereby enhancing awareness among children, their families, and health care practitioners regarding detection, treatment, and prevention of environmentally related diseases and health conditions.