Role of the HEAL Partnership Committee in the NIH HEAL Initiative

Rebecca Baker, PhD
Director, HEAL Initiative
Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health
Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative

• Trans-NIH research initiative to:
  • Improve prevention and treatment strategies for opioid misuse and addiction
  • Enhance pain management

• Goals are scientific solutions to the opioid crisis

• Coordinating with the HHS Secretary, Surgeon General, federal partners, local government officials and communities

www.nih.gov/heal-initiative
About the NIH HEAL Initiative^SM

In April 2018, NIH launched the HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term^SM) Initiative, an aggressive, trans-agency effort to speed scientific solutions to stem the national opioid public health crisis. This Initiative will build on extensive, well-established NIH research, including basic science of the complex neurological pathways involved in pain and addiction, implementation science to develop and test treatment models, and research to integrate behavioral interventions with Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD). Successes from this research include the development of the nasal form of naloxone, the most commonly used nasal spray for reversing opioid overdose, the development of buprenorphine for the treatment of OUD, and evidence for the use of nondrug and mind/body techniques such as yoga, tai chi, acupuncture, and mindfulness meditation to help patients control and manage pain.
HEAL: At a Glance

• $500M/year trans-NIH effort
  • Over $850M to be obligated in FY2019
• 12 NIH Institute and Centers leading 26 HEAL research projects
  • Over 20 collaborating Institutes, Centers, and Offices
  • From prevention research, basic and translational research, clinical trials, to implementation science
  • Multiple projects integrating research into new settings
    • e.g. health care, criminal justice, Medicare populations, etc.
• Released >40 funding announcements for FY2019
HEAL Research Focus on Opioid Addiction

• Develop new treatments for opioid addiction, including more flexible medications options, novel immunotherapies to opioids, and new overdose prevention and reversal agents

• Advance clinical trials for Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal syndrome to improve short- and long-term outcomes for infants and children

• Enhance the linkages with primary care, emergency departments, and the justice system
HEAL Research Focus on Pain Management

• Pinpoint acute to chronic pain signatures to identify those at risk for transition to chronic pain
• Discover and validate novel treatments for pain
  • Work across the ICs to include all therapeutic development programs
  • Identify potential small molecules, biologics, devices, and natural products
  • Develop preclinical screening platforms for testing
  • Move successful compounds/devices to clinical trials
NIH Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative: Governance Overview

NIH Leadership
NIH HEAL Executive Committee
DECISION MAKING

Councils and External Experts
HEAL Multi-Disciplinary Working Group
Specialized working group of NINDS/NIDA and other IC councils provide input to prioritize HEAL research projects

Federal Partners
HEAL Federal Working Group
Working group of HHS and other federal partners focused on coordinating efforts across HEAL research projects

Trans-NIH Scientific Teams
RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION
Senior NIH scientific staff leading individual HEAL projects align efforts and build cohesion in programs
HEAL Initiative Governance: Multi-Disciplinary Working Group

NIH HEAL Executive Committee

DECISION MAKING

EXPERT INPUT

Councils and External Experts

NINDS Council

HEAL Multi-Disciplinary Working Group

NIDA Council

Pain focused subgroup

Addiction focused subgroup

RESEARCH PRIORITIZATION

• Specialized working group of NINDS, NIDA, other IC councils provide expert input on HEAL research
• 16 working group members – some council some ad hoc members
• Will not review every HEAL FOA or program
  • Some FOAs to go directly to relevant IC council – determined by Executive Committee
• Provides input on state of the science in HEAL research areas and different pain conditions
  • Health services research, multi-disciplinary research and emerging opportunities
NIH HEAL Executive Committee

**DECISION MAKING**

**Councils and External Experts**

- **HEAL Partnership Forum**
- **HEAL Multi-Disciplinary Working Group**
- **HEAL Partnership Committee**

**RESEARCH PRIORITIZATION**

- **NIDA Council**
- **NINDS Council**

- Oversee activities of public-private partnership through the “HEAL Partnership Committee”
  - Composed of experts from pharmaceutical, biotech, device industries, along with patients, ethicist, and academic researchers
  - Includes three members of the HEAL MDWG
  - Help develop products such as template for industry submissions to new clinical trials network
  - First meeting March 5, 2019
Questions/Discussion

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