NIH HEAL (Helping to End Addiction Long-term) Initiative

Rebecca G. Baker, Ph.D.
Director, HEAL Initiative, Office of the Director,
National Institutes of Health
The Crisis of Chronic Pain in the U.S.

- 50 million adults are affected by chronic pain
- 25 million report severe pain on a daily basis
- 20 million have high impact chronic pain

CDC, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, Sept. 2018
Helping to End Addiction Long-term (HEAL) Initiative: 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
- Released 40+ funding announcements for FY2019
- Awards planned for September 2019
HEAL Initiative Research Overview

Enhancing Pain Management

Improving Treatments for Misuse and Addiction

Pre-Clinical Research in Pain Management

Expand Therapeutic Options

Develop New/Improved Prevention & Treatment Strategies

Optimize Effective Treatments

Enhance Treatments for Affected Newborns
Enhancing Pain Management

• Pre-Clinical and Translational Research in Pain Management
  • Accelerate the discovery and development of non-addictive treatments for pain
    • Understanding the origins of chronic pain
      • Acute to Chronic Pain Signatures Program
    • Discovery and validation of novel targets for safe and effective pain treatment
    • Biomarkers, signatures and endpoints for pain
    • Translating discoveries into effective devices for pain treatment
    • Engineering preclinical screening platforms + novel drug development
Enhancing Pain Management

• Clinical Research in Pain Management
  • Characterize populations of patients with pain conditions
  • Test novel treatments in a new clinical trials network
    • Early Phase Pain Investigation Clinical Network (EPPIC Net)
    • Back Pain Research Consortium
  • Establish best strategies for management of acute and chronic pain
    • Pain Management Effectiveness Research Network
    • Integrated approach to pain and opioid use in hemodialysis patients
    • Pragmatic and Implementation Studies for the Management of Pain
Goals for Today’s Meeting

• Leverage the expertise of the HEAL Partnership Committee (HPC) toward HEAL programs related to the use of animal and human cell models for pain drug development
• Advance development of predictive models and platforms of potential value to drug, biologic and device companies
• Plan outreach of Early-phase investigation network
• Consider topics for upcoming HPC meetings