



# ***Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research*** ***National Institutes of Health***

**Wendy B. Smith, MA, PhD, BCB**  
**Associate Director**  
**Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research**

**December 4, 2018**



National Institutes of Health  
Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research



# ***Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research***

**OBSSR was created by Congress in 1993, in recognition of the importance of behavioral and social sciences to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) mission.**

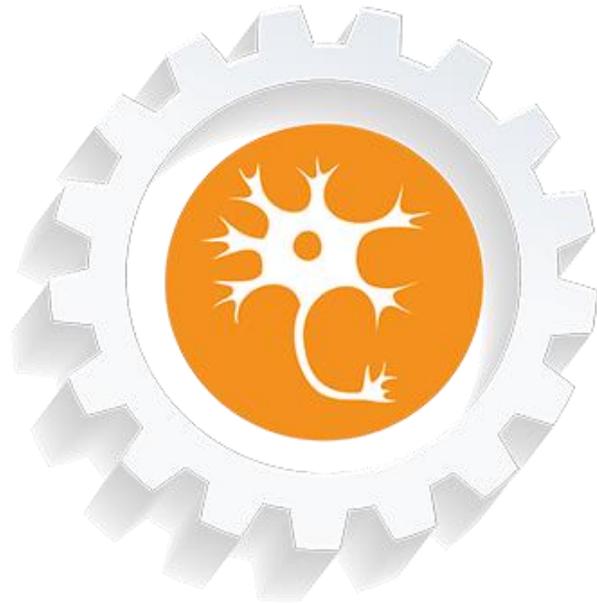
## **Our Mission:**

**Enhance the impact of health-related behavioral and social sciences research**

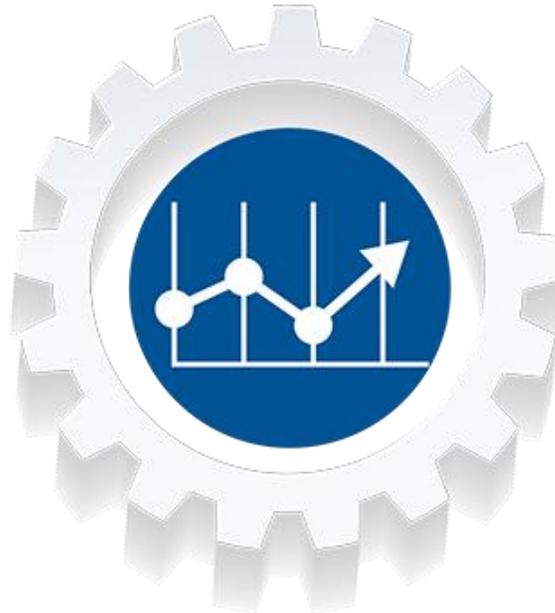
**Coordinate behavioral and social sciences research conducted or supported by the NIH and integrate these sciences within the larger NIH research enterprise**

**Communicate health-related behavioral and social sciences research findings to various stakeholders within and outside the federal government**

**BASIC + APPLIED  
RESEARCH SYNERGY**



**METHODS, MEASURES +  
DATA INFRASTRUCTURES**



**APPLICATION + ADOPTION  
OF BSSR RESEARCH**



**COMMUNICATION**



**PROGRAM COORDINATION  
+ INTEGRATION**



**TRAINING**



**POLICY + EVALUATION**

# BSSR Content Areas

## Addictive Behaviors

- Processes / Mechanisms
- Prevention / Cessation
- Risk of Substance Use/Abuse

## Attention, Learning & Memory

- Neurobiological/Psychological Processes / Mechanisms of Attention, Learning and Memory
- Disorders of Attention, Learning & Memory (e.g., dementia) & Interventions

## Developmental Processes & Family Health

- Developmental Processes from Conception to Death
- Maternal Health, Parental Behavior, Family Dynamics
- Adverse Events that Affect Development

## Food Intake & Physical Activity

- Behaviors Associated with Energy Intake & Expenditure
- Treatment of Obesity, Malnutrition

## Healthcare & Disease Management

- Healthcare Access
- Provider-Patient Interactions
- Health Literacy
- Medical Errors
- Treatment Adherence
- Disease Management

## Language & Communications Disorders

- Communication Processes
- Impairments in Receptive/Expressive Verbal and Nonverbal Communication
- Interventions

## Mental Health

- Bio-Psycho-Social Processes Involved in Regulating Mental Health/Illness
- Interventions
- Influences of Mental Health on Other Conditions

## Pain, Injury, & Disability

- Functional Impairments that Reduce Quality of Life
- Pathophysiology, Management, and Rehabilitation
- Prevention of Injury and Falls

## Sensation & Perception

- Mechanisms of Sight, Sound, Taste, Touch, Smell, Interoception, Balance, Proprioception, Time, Temperature
- Perception / Integration / Interpretation / Response

## Sexual Behaviors

- Sexual Attitudes / Behaviors
- Bio-Psycho-Social Influences
- Risky Sexual Behavior
- Interventions

## Sleep

- Bio-Psycho-Social Processes
- Sleep Disorders
- Circadian Rhythms
- Effects of Sleep on Performance / Disease Risk
- SIDS

## Social Processes & Determinants

- Social / Economic Influences
- Cultural/Community Factors
- Policy Impacts
- Health Disparities

## Stress, Trauma, & Resilience

- Effects of Exposure to Stressors/Trauma on Health & Well-Being
- Coping/Resilience
- Interventions

# Behavioral and Social Sciences Research: Contributions to the Opioid and Pain Crises

## ► Contribution of Social and Behavioral Research in Addressing the Opioid Crisis

(March 5-6, 2018)

### ◆ *Included researchers, stakeholders, advocacy groups, and policy makers*

- *Sociocultural and socioeconomic underpinnings of the crisis*
- *Behavioral and social factors preventing opioid initiation and mitigating the transition from acute to chronic opioid use*
- *Nonpharmacologic approaches to the treatment of opioid abuse and chronic pain management*
- *Overcoming barriers to prevention and treatment*
- *Models of integrating social and behavioral approaches into clinical and medical practice*

## ► NIH Contributions of Social and Behavioral Science in Addressing the Opioid Crisis (CSBR-AOC) Trans-NIH Strategic Planning Committee

### ◆ *Three Subgroups: Dissemination/Communication, FOA Development, Publication*

- *Prioritize and translate key recommendations into action items*
- *Identify areas where more research or dissemination is needed*



# Active Funding Announcements: OBSSR Led

- ▶ **Methodology and Measurement in the Behavioral and Social Sciences (R01, R21)**
- ▶ **Predocutorial Training in Advanced Data Analytics for Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (BSSR) - Institutional Research Training Program (T32)**
- ▶ **Education and Health: New Frontiers (R01, R03, R21)**
- ▶ **Population Health Interventions: Integrating Individual and Group Level Evidence (R21, R01)**
- ▶ **Revision Applications for Validation of Mobile/Wireless Health Tools for Measurement and Intervention (R01)**
- ▶ **Improving Patient Adherence to Treatment and Prevention Regimens to Promote Health (R01, R21)**
- ▶ **Short-term Mentored Career Enhancement Awards in Mobile and Wireless Health Technology and Data Analytics: Cross-Training at the intersection of Behavioral and Social Sciences and STEM Disciplines (K18)**
- ▶ **mHealth Tools for Individuals with Chronic Conditions to Promote Effective Patient-Provider Communication, Adherence to Treatment and Self-Management (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)**
- ▶ **RFA - Longitudinal Analysis of Health Behaviors: Leveraging New Technologies to Understand Health Behaviors (2017)**





What can we help you find?



Home

Research Support

Program Coordination

Training

Events and News

Resources

About



## Director's Blog: New Funding Opportunities for Basic Experimental Studies Involving Humans

*"Today, Dr. Michael Lauer and I coauthored an Open Mike blog announcing the release of the parent FOAs for Basic Experimental Studies Involving Humans (BESH)."*

- OBSSR Director, William T. Riley, Ph.D.

Read Blog



RESEARCH  
SUPPORT



TRAINING



EVENTS

<https://obssr.od.nih.gov/>

