NIMHD’s mission is to lead scientific research that advances understanding of minority health and health disparities

- Supports research in minority health, as defined by racial/ethnic groups in U.S. Census
- Supports research to understand the causes of and reduce health disparities in specific populations
- Supports the training of a diverse scientific workforce as part of broad NIH mandate
- Translates and disseminates research information
- Fosters innovative collaborations and partnerships
Minority Health Definition

• Distinctive health characteristics and attributes of the principal minority racial and/or ethnic groups in the U.S.
• Social disadvantage and/or subject to discrimination as a common theme
• Historically underrepresented in biomedical research and usually in the scientific workforce
Minority Health Populations

OMB standards—Minority Racial/Ethnic Classification

- African American or Black
- Asian (>30 countries)
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (e.g., Guam, Tonga)
- Latino or Hispanic (20 countries)
Health Disparity Populations

Health disparity populations include racial/ethnic minorities, low SES, and/or others subject to discrimination who have poorer health outcomes often attributed to being socially disadvantaged, which results in being underserved in the full spectrum of health care.
Health Disparities Definition

• A health disparity is defined as a health difference that adversely affects disadvantaged populations, based on one or more of the health outcomes

• Health disparities research is devoted to advancing scientific knowledge about the influence of health determinants and defining mechanisms and how this knowledge is translated into interventions to reduce health disparities
Health Disparity Outcomes

• Higher incidence and/or prevalence
• Burden of disease measured by *Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYS)*
• Premature and/or excessive *mortality* in areas where populations differ
• Poorer health-related quality of life and/or daily functioning using standardized measures
Health Disparity Risk Outcomes

• **Risks to Wellbeing**: stress, lifestyle behaviors, racism, environmental conditions, low SES, LEP, violence
• **Biological/Epigenetic Risks**: Earlier age of onset, gene variant, metabolic differences, susceptibility
• **Risk of Faster progression or greater severity**
• **Clinical Event Risks** that Adversely Impact Health: differential treatments, poor communication, adverse events to medications, falls
• **Utilization of Care Risks**: lack of access, use/abuse of appropriate services including screening, excess hospitalizations and high readmissions, primary care, emergency room visits, end of life/palliative care
Minority Health and Health Disparities Research: Overlap and Uniqueness

Minority Health

Health Disparities
**Minority Health and Health Disparities Research Framework**

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<thead>
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<th>Domains of Influence</th>
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<td><strong>Physical Environment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sociocultural Environment</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Health Outcomes</strong></td>
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Inclusion and Workforce Diversity

• Inclusion of minorities in clinical studies is a separate important domain and not to be confused with minority health

• Social justice and common sense given nearly 40% of US population is racial/ethnic minority

• Biomedical workforce diversity is an urgent societal issue for both clinicians (10%) and scientists (<5% NIH submitted grants)
NIMHD Priorities

• Define the science of health disparities and minority health
• Promote innovation from extramural scientists in population sciences
• Establish health services and research in clinical settings program
• Stimulate innovative, investigator-initiated research through the NIMHD research program
• Promote diversity in the workforce
NIMHD Division of Scientific Programs: Branches

• Research in the Clinical Setting and Health Services Research

• Integrative Biological and Behavioral Sciences: Mechanisms and Etiologies

• Community Health and Population Health Sciences
New Research Areas for FY 2017

- Research Centers on Retaining Youth and Young Adults from Health Disparity Populations in the HIV Treatment Cascade
- Addressing Health Disparities Among Immigrant Populations
- Disparities in Surgical Care and Outcomes
- Social Epigenomics for Minority Health and Health Disparities
- Health Services Research on MH/HD
NIMHD Scientific Workshops

• Measurement and Methods: April 22
• Etiologies and Interventions: May 19-20
• Use of IT technologies and strategies in Minority Health and Health Disparities (NSF partner)
• Self-Identified Race and Ethnicity in Genomic and Biomedical Research (NHGRI partner)
• Structural Racism and Cultural Competence: Impact on Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMH partner)
NIMHD Intramural Program

- Population science emphasis with clinical component
- Recruit scientific director and senior scientist: epidemiology, clinician, social/behavioral
- New cohort study: immigrants?
- Network with other ICs’ programs with similar interests
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