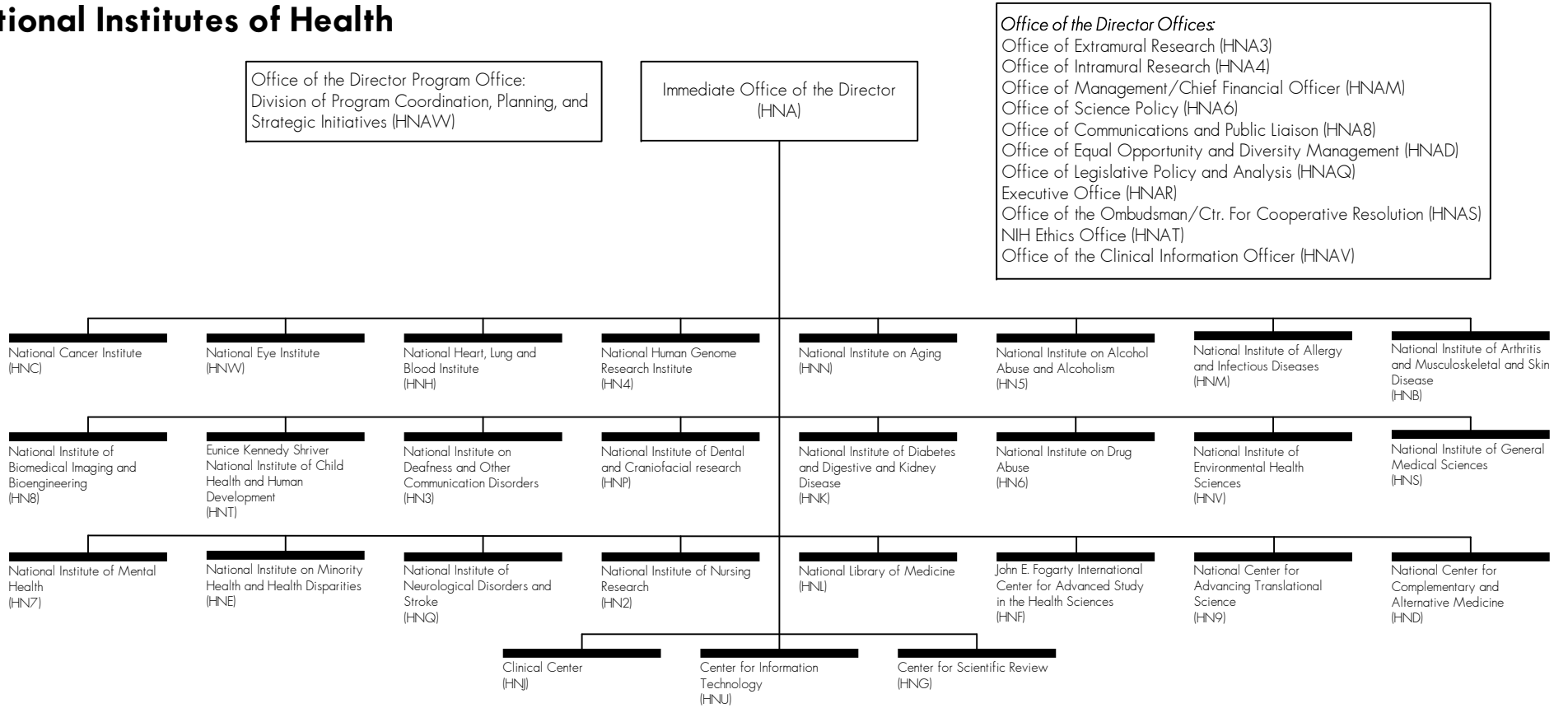


National Institutes of Health



The Mission of the National Institutes of Health is science in pursuit of knowledge to improve human health. This means pursuing science to expand fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems; to apply that knowledge to extend the health of human lives; and to reduce the burdens resulting from disease and disability. The National Institutes of Health seeks to accomplish its mission by:

- Fostering fundamental discoveries, innovative research, and their applications in order to advance the Nation's capacity to protect and improve health;
- Developing, maintaining, and renewing the human and physical resources that are vital to ensure the Nation's capability to prevent disease, improve health, and enhance quality of life;
- Expanding the knowledge base in biomedical, behavioral, and associated sciences in order to enhance America's economic well-being and ensure a continued high return on the public investment in research; and
- Exemplifying and promoting the highest level of scientific integrity, public accountability, and social responsibility in the conduct of science.