National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research - HNP

To improve and promote craniofacial, oral, and dental health through research: (1) develops disease prevention, diagnostic, therapeutic, and health promotion measures through the conduct and support of basic, translational, applied, and demonstration research; (2) develops and maintains an adequate research personnel pool through the conduct and support of training and career development programs; (3) promotes the timely transfer and appropriate adoption of research findings by the public, professional and research communities; (4) disseminates accurate information to the public, professionals and policy-makers; and (5) coordinates and collaborates with, and assists and fosters relevant research and research-related activities with, other public and private agencies and organizations.
Office of the Director - HNP1

(1) Provides leadership, direction, planning, evaluation, and coordination of NIDCR programs and policies; (2) advises the Director, NIH, on policy matters concerning dental, oral and craniofacial health research and research training; (3) represents NIDCR and NIH in meetings of the Chief Dental Officer, other PHS-wide, and Federal and non-Federal activities relevant to oral health; (4) directs special oral health projects, such as the National Oral Health Call to Action; (5) provides and/or oversees management and administrative services to the Institute; (6) provides program analysis and develops and maintains scientific data bases for reporting program activities; (7) administers career development, research infrastructure, and curriculum development activities in extramural institutions, and educational activities in the Institute's intramural laboratories and clinics; (8) provides leadership for collaborative efforts to implement strategies to capitalize on new knowledge and socioeconomic changes in the oral health sciences; (9) develops, coordinates and implements communication activities and clearinghouse projects; (10) establishes, maintains, and conducts programs to promote EEO; and (11) provides liaison with dental schools, research institutions, academic health centers, professional organizations related to dental, oral, and craniofacial activities, and lay organizations.
Office of Administrative Management - HNP13

(1) Provides leadership, direction, planning and coordination of NIDCR administrative management activities, including the areas of financial management, R&D acquisition management, management analysis, human resource-related activities, information technology, and general administration; (2) advises the Director, Deputy Director, Division Directors, and other key officials on ethics, managerial and administrative matters affecting the planning and execution of NIDCR programs; (3) interprets, analyzes, and implements legislation and/or Departmental and NIH directives affecting administrative policies, orders and new concepts affecting the overall mission of the NIDCR; (4) ensures Institute compliance with all applicable administrative regulations; (5) develops policies, guidelines, and procedures on matters relating to the administrative management activities of the Institute; and (6) serves as the Institute focal point for the coordination, preparation, and analysis of a wide variety of programmatic reports and other documents associated with NIH, DHHS, and other Federal agencies.
Administrative Management Branch - HNP132

Provides overall administrative advice and support to the Office of the Director (OD), the Division of Extramural Research (DER), and the Oral Health Promotion, Risk Factors, and Molecular Epidemiology Branch (OHPRFMEB) of the Division of Intramural Research (DIR); (2) assists in planning and directing the OD's and the Divisions' administrative management activities including budget, personnel, management analysis, procurement, space management, travel, property management, office services, timekeeping, etc.; (3) analyzes effects of changes in administrative policies and practices by organizational echelons above the NIDR; (4) advises OD and Division staff of ethics and administrative policies and practices; (5) develops, implements and/or provides advice on the development and implementation of regulations, policies and procedures for the Institute; (6) prepares staff papers and reports on general management issues in response to requirements from NIH and DHHS; (7) coordinates, analyzes, and provides advice on all organizational change proposals for the Institute; and (8) serves as the coordinating point in handling administrative and/or management issues/problems that cross NIDR program lines and that cannot be resolved at program levels, including property accountability, records management, payroll liaison, international travel, sponsored travel, etc.
Financial Management Branch - HNP133

Advises the Institute Director, Deputy Director, Executive Officer, and other senior staff in the financial management aspects of the planning, formulation, execution, and evaluation of the Institute's programs; (2) collaborates with program planning staff in the development and coordination of the Institute's programs with the budget process; (3) formulates and monitors the Institute's financial management program and establishes systems for effective control of funds; (4) compiles and prepares the Institute's budget; (5) devises or oversees development of financial data systems that provide information for management decisions, while remaining compatible with the central NIH data systems; (6) develops budget back-up material for OMB and Congressional appropriation hearings and assists in the briefing of witnesses in defense of the budget; and (7) serves as the focal point for the monitoring and clearance of all budgetary and fiscal data as the result of Congressional or other inquiries.
Office of Science Policy and Analysis - HNP16

(1) Provides guidance and assistance in the development of science policy and program planning and evaluation for the Institute, including research agenda development, science priority setting for annual and future budgets, strategic planning, policy research coordination and development, science policy briefings, and special planning efforts on specific research issues or initiatives; (2) provides professional advice, technical assistance, and guidance in implementing the planning decisions made by senior Institute officials; (3) prepares reports, trend analyses, analytical and interpretive data, and provides epidemiologic and statistical expertise to the Institute; (4) responds to requests from various NIH entities and key stakeholders, including Congress, HHS, the White House, advocacy, and other interest groups; (5) serves as liaison with government, academic and private sector planning, evaluation, legislative, and science policy agencies and organizations; (6) develops, maintains and updates the Institute's science classification/coding system and other program data systems, including designing and preparing reports on NIDCR scientific, programmatic and funding activities; (7) develops and coordinates program evaluation and assessment activities to determine the content, significance and effectiveness of NIDCR's on-going programs and activities, including the Institute's research, research training, and career development, programs to plan for future research and policy needs; and (8) coordinates a Residency Program in Dental Public Health.
(1) Plans, conducts, and directs activities in the area of program analysis; and provides analytic and interpretive data needed to formulate Institute goals and objectives; (2) conducts statistical analyses, coordinate reports and manuscripts for publication, and prepares reports and provides interpretation of human population data on trends in morbidity, mortality and care patterns for diseases within NIDCR’s mission including current public health issues with program evaluation or health policy implications; (3) prepares or coordinates the preparation of ad hoc, and recurring reports on Institute activities (e.g., trans-NIH and HHS Collaboration Reports and the Biennial Report); (4) develops and maintains the NIDCR Databook and other reports needed by NIDCR leadership.
Science Policy and Planning Branch – HNP165

(1) Advises the Director and other senior Institute staff members concerning emerging scientific and program policy issues of significance to the Institute and recommends options for their resolutions; (2) provides leadership and guidance for strategic and operational planning within the Institute, to include development of annual program initiatives; (3) participates in NIH and HHS planning activities; (4) organizes and develops materials for the annual NIH Director’s Briefing to Congress; (5) collects and analyzes programmatic and portfolio data to support the NIDCR strategic planning process; (6) develops, maintains and updates the Institute’s science classification/coding system and other program data systems; (7) maintains expertise in NIH-wide systems used in the analysis and reporting of research program activities, such as Query View Report System (QVR), the Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools (RePort) and Research, Condition, Disease, and Categorization (RCDC).
(1) Develops, implements, and evaluates the Institute's science, health, and digital communication programs, which are designed to promote the timely transfer of knowledge gained from research and its implications for health to researchers, health professionals, patients, the general public, and the media; (2) manages scientific, NIH, and HHS clearance of NIDCR communications; (3) coordinates liaison with patient and professional organizations; and (4) advises the NIDCR Director, staff, and relevant outside groups on communication strategies and policies.
Health Information and Public Liaison Branch - HNP175

(1) Manages NIDCR's public inquiry and exhibit programs; (2) conducts social marketing and other audience research to guide health professional, patient, and public education; (3) develops, tests, and disseminates oral health information and campaigns; (4) translates and adapts oral health content for people with limited English proficiency; (5) coordinates liaison with health voluntary organizations; and (6) establishes strategic partnerships with other NIH Institutes, federal agencies, and outside organizations.
Science Communication and Digital Outreach Branch - HNP176

(1) Develops and disseminates information on NIDCR-supported research; (2) coordinates media training for NIDCR scientific staff; (3) handles media relations; (4) coordinates liaison with professional organizations; (5) conducts customer satisfaction research and digital analytics to guide website/social media strategy and measure effectiveness; and (6) manages the NIDCR website(s), social media, and related content and policies.
Office of Information Technology - HNP18

(1) Oversees and coordinates the Institute's information technology (IT) activities; (2) develops strategic IT plans, ensuring Institute compliance with all applicable regulations, and ensures that IT is used effectively throughout the Institute; (3) establishes and oversees the Institute's IT policies and guidelines and provides for appropriate security of IT systems; and (4) provides leadership, focus and operational support within the Institute for (a) implementation of IT policies and standards; (b) the management of IT projects; (c) development, operation and maintenance of state-of-the-art IT facilities and equipment; (d) Network infrastructure and operation; (e) internet and intranet services; (f) the development and maintenance of Institute-wide or program-specific databases and information systems; and (g) the design and implementation of continuing professional development programs of computer literacy and competency for Institute staff.
(1) Supports the NIDCR extramural and intramural clinical research program by providing operational and management support to clinical research studies including clinical trials and epidemiological studies; (2) coordinates the implementation of clinical research studies across the NIDCR; (3) coordinates the training of investigators and support personnel for the conduct of interventional clinical trials and epidemiological studies; (4) provides operational, management and clinical trials conduct expertise to NIDCR in developing and implementing clinical research studies; (5) develops and maintains a pharmacovigilance program for the NIDCR clinical research program; (6) serves as liaison for access to FDA regulatory affairs services for the NIDCR clinical research program; and (7) serves as liaison for access to pilot lot production of investigational agents for clinical evaluation.
Division of Intramural Research - HNP2

(1) Plans and conducts basic and clinical research programs directed toward increasing the fundamental knowledge of craniofacial/oral health and disease, including the development, structure, function and dysfunction of craniofacial/oral structures and tissues, the role of microorganisms and host immune responses in oral and systemic infectious and inflammatory diseases, craniofacial genetic disorders, oral and pharyngeal cancer, and acute and chronic pain and neurosensory mechanisms; (2) plans and conducts a translational, patient-oriented and community-based research and assessment program aimed at translating new knowledge into immediate gains in the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases and disorders and in the promotion of craniofacial/oral and general health; (3) develops, directs, and performs epidemiologic investigations of craniofacial/oral health and disease, as well as oral manifestations of systemic disorders; identifies and tests risk factors, disease markers, and clinical indices for craniofacial/oral diseases and conditions; (4) performs research in the areas of disease diagnosis, etiology, prognosis, and treatment; prevention and health promotion; delivery of care, utilization of services, risk-benefit assessment, and decision systems; (5) provides dental care and consults for selected iHNPatients and ambulatory patients from NIH Institutes conducting clinical research in the Warren Grant Magnuson Clinical Center; (6) evaluates research efforts and establishes program priorities; (7) allocates funds, space, and personnel ceilings to ensure maximum utilization of available resources in the attainment of Institute objectives and integrates new research activities into the program structure; (8) collaborates with other NIH Institutes and external research institutions and maintains an awareness of national research efforts in program areas; and (9) provides advice on intramural research and science in general to the Institute Director.
Office of the Scientific Director - HNP21

(1) Provides leadership, direction, planning, evaluation, and coordination of NIDCR DIR programs and policies; (2) advises the NIDCR Director on research matters concerning dental, oral and craniofacial health research and research training; (3) represents NIDCR and NIH meetings of the Deputy Director for Intramural Research, and Federal and non-Federal activities relevant to craniofacial and dental health research; (4) administers career development, research infrastructure, and educational activities for intramural scientists and scientist trainees, and educational activities in the Institute's intramural laboratories and clinics; (5) provides leadership for collaborative research in dental and craniofacial research; (6) establishes, maintains, and conducts programs to promote EEO.
Office of the Clinical Director - HNP212

(1) Oversees, in coordination with the Office of the Scientific Director, all intramural clinical activities related to NIDCR's mission, including training in clinical research; (2) providing an oral medicine and dental consultation service for the Clinical Center patient population; (3) supporting clinical research at NIDCR DIR through assistance with protocol writing; (4) scientific reviewing, regulatory compliance (FDA and OHRP), database development, AE/SAE reporting, subject scheduling, study coordinator support and research nursing support; (5) supporting clinical research quality and oversight through formal external study monitoring, Data Safety Monitoring Committee and internal quality controls; and (6) administrative support for the NIDCR Institutional Review Board.
Dental Clinical Research Core - HNP2122

(1) Promotes and conducts translational and clinical research with investigators from other NIDCR branches and NIH institutes. Research programs include the evaluation and treatment of salivary gland dysfunction, studies on natural history and treatment of diseases, novel approaches to pain management.
Dental Clinical Fellows Training Program - HNP2123

(1) Provides training for health professionals in the latest clinical research methodologies; (2) designs projects to facilitate translational research in which clinical research projects are conducted that complement basic science laboratory projects.
(1) Provides oral evaluation and care to consult patients at the Clinical Center, (2) coordinates and facilitates consultative services in the Dental Clinic, (3) interacts closely with primary care givers and other members of the medical team and triaging patient treatment needs.
Office of Technology Transfer and Innovation Access- HNP213

Facilitates transfer of and access to innovations, including inventions, research materials, data, and information, by (1) establishing mutually beneficial technology transfer agreements, including material transfer, disclosure, license, and collaborative agreements; (2) evaluating innovations for intellectual property and commercial potential; (3) protecting inventions by planning, monitoring and guiding patent prosecution; (4) promoting conception of new inventions through education and outreach; (5) finding ways to support product development and commercialization efforts by pursuing Orphan Drug Designation, CRADA agreements, etc. and (6) serving as a focal point for information and advice on matters related to technology transfer, including policy, internal controls, and portfolios. Supports and protects the NIDCR mission, its staff and research program by ensuring Federal law and NIH policy are followed, providing oversight to technology transfer activities, including budget, royalties, and agreements, promoting NIH values and policies during negotiations, and reducing risk with best practices and proper use of authorities.
Office of Education - HNP217

(1) Supports the needs of intramural scientists, trainees, and students at all levels as related to their training; (2) serve as the focal point for training at NIDCR and offers a variety of resources to trainees.
Information Technology Core – HNP218

(1) Provides computer support for the research, clinical, and administrative staff in the Division of Intramural Research (DIR); (2) provides for networking of the DIR's computers and provides consultations to the DIR staff on a variety of computer-related topics.
Gene Transfer Core - HNP219

(1) Provides research and technical services to NIDCR laboratories for the generation and preservation of genetically altered animal models; (2) provides consultations for developing strategies, conducting gene-targeting experiments, performing injections and embryo transfers, and carrying out cryopreservation of mouse strains.
Veterinary Resources Core - HNP21B

(1) Provides husbandry, veterinary care, animal research technical support, assistance in the writing of Animal Study Protocols, and education and assistance regarding interpretations of animal use regulations, and health and safety policies.
Combined Technical Core - HNP21E

(1) Provides state of the art biotechnology services to NIDCR scientists in support of their research, including flow cytometry and cell sorting, laser capture microscopy, white blood cell elutriation and DNA sequencing.
Molecular Physiology and Therapeutics Branch - HNP24

(1) Pursues a comprehensive bench-to-bedside program to understand the molecular basis of salivary gland function and dysfunction and to develop strategies for the diagnosis, prevention, and management of salivary gland diseases. (2) Clinical and translational studies focus on mechanisms of, and therapies for, salivary gland dysfunction caused by head and neck irradiation and diseases such as Sjogren's syndrome. (3) Develops novel clinical strategies to restore salivary secretion that include viral based gene transfer, pharmacological and other molecular tools.
Secretory Physiology Section - HNP242

(1) Studies Ca2+ entry mechanisms in salivary gland cells with focus on identifying and understanding their regulation as well as their involvement in salivary gland physiology and pathophysiology, for use as possible treatments.
Adeno-Associated Virus Section - HNP243

(1) Defines interactions of the adeno-associated virus (AAV) with its target cell; (2) studies delivery of therapeutic genes to the salivary glands, lung, Central Nervous System, inner ear, and eye for potential treatment.
(1) Directs research on mechanisms in salivary glands and the pancreas; (2) directs research on how the ducts of the salivary glands and pancreas secrete the buffer bicarbonate to regulate the acidity of the saliva and the pancreatic juice; (3) studies the causes of oral cavity and pancreatic diseases.
Gene Transfer Section - HNP245

(1) Researches gene transfer to salivary glands for repair of irradiation-damaged glands; (2) studies methods for using healthy glands for therapeutic use.
Oral Pharyngeal and Cancer Branch - HNP25

(1) Conducts basic, translational, and clinical studies into the etiology, treatment and prevention of oral cancers and premalignant lesions; (2) conducts basic studies in areas of relevance to all cancers, including alterations in signaling mechanisms, proteolytic processes and tissue remodeling, immunity and immune tolerance, posttranslational modifications, and membrane trafficking, as well as those unique to cancers of the head and neck (3) utilizes information to develop successful strategies to diagnose, treat and prevent cancers in the oral cavity and the head and neck area.
Cell Growth Regulation Section - HNP252

(1) Researches molecular basis of cancer through the study of intracellular signaling circuitries regulating normal cell growth, motility, cell fate decisions, and cell-to-cell communication, and how their aberrant activity contributes to tumor progression and metastasis.
Molecular Carcinogenesis Section - HNP253

(1) Studies the molecular mechanisms underlying the initiation, progression, and metastatic spread of oral cancers; (2) applies this knowledge to develop markers for the early diagnosis of oral cancer lesions, as well as novel molecular-targeted preventive strategies and therapeutic options for oral malignancies.
(1) Researches how proteolytic enzymes anchored to the surface of cells contribute to the development of oral tissues, oral wound healing, and tumor formation in the oral cavity.
Cellular and Molecular Biochemistry Section - HNP255

(1) Studies molecular structure/biological function relationships; (2) researches enzymes involved in a unique posttranslational modification reaction resulting in the formation of the unusual amino acid hypusine in a single cellular protein.
(1) Researches the cellular and molecular mechanisms of immunoregulation of immune responses in mucosal and systemic lymphoid and non-lymphoid tissue; (2) Conducts basic research to understand the pathogenesis of autoimmunity and inflammation, cancer and infectious diseases; and (3) Develops potential therapies for relevant human diseases with special attention on Sjogren's syndrome and oral and head and neck cancers.
Diseases associated with skeletal structures and the dentition represent a unique set of basic science, diagnostic and therapeutic opportunities that remain highly relevant to oral health and disease, yet are shared priorities of several other ICDs. The NIDR will extend its long-standing commitment to mineralized tissue research through clinical programs that translate basic science discoveries into diagnostic and therapeutic progress. The Craniofacial, Dental and Skeletal Diseases and Disorders Branch will explore fundamental questions in bone formation and resorption, development of mineralized tissues, bone matrix structure-function relationships and diagnosis and treatment of genetic and acquired diseases and disorders of the mineralized tissues. Because of the campus-wide interest in a "Bone Clinic," it is likely that this effort can be enhanced through shared resources among several interested ICDs. NIDR is committed to pursuing campus-wide partnerships in building such a trans-NIH research program.
The Matrix Biochemistry Unit is dedicated to understanding the structure-function relationship of the matrix components of bones and teeth. Major emphasis has been to understand the role of these matrices' small integrin-binding proteins in normal development and in disease states.
The Molecular Biology of Bones and Teeth Section seeks to investigate the regulation and function of matrix genes expressed by bones and teeth. The unit employs advanced molecular genetic technologies including gene isolation, mutation, and transfer into the cells and tissues from mouse and human mineralized tissues. Experiments are designed to alter (by gain and loss) specific fashion. Furthermore, transgenic technology is being utilized to gain an understanding of the function of these genes during pre-natal and post-natal development and maturation.
Skeletal Biology Section – HNP266

(1) Studies the biological properties of adult stem cells in mineralized tissues and soft tissues of the craniofacial region, with emphasis on the role that they play in diseases, and how they can be used in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine.
Matrix Metalloproteinase Section - HNP268

(1) Studies the role of matrix remodeling in general, and collagen remodeling in particular, of skeletal and associated tissues in health and disease.
Developmental Mechanisms Section – HNP2A

(1) Conducts basic science investigations in the sea urchin embryo on the signaling mechanisms that alter the developmental capacities of different cells and set up the major tissue territories; (2) Studies the mechanisms by which neural and non-neural ectoderm are determined and different neurons within neuroectoderm are specified; (3) Evaluates the conservation of these regulatory mechanisms in other systems, including vertebrate embryos.
Biological Chemistry Section - HNP2B

(1) Conducts basic research on biosynthesis, structure and function of glycoproteins, placing a special emphasis on mucin-type O-glycans.
Secretory Mechanisms and Dysfunction Section - HNP2C

(1) Studies the (patho) physiological properties of salivary gland cells, with a particular emphasis on determining the molecular nature of the fluid secretion mechanism, and ultimately using the insight gained to treat salivary gland hypofunction.
Laboratory of Cell and Developmental Biology - HNP2G

(1) Performs research to understand craniofacial development and function at cellular and molecular levels, relevant to discovering mechanisms of diseases and for developing therapeutic and preventive strategies; (2) identifies novel genes and processes that govern the development and function of craniofacial structures, including salivary glands, teeth and associated microbial biofilm communities; (3) characterizes genetically linked disorders in the head-and-neck region; and (4) determines the mechanisms by which cells interact with and function in extracellular microenvironments during development, normal homeostasis, and disease to provide opportunities for biologically based craniofacial/oral/dental repair, therapy, and regeneration.
Cell Biology Section - HNP2G5

Identifies and characterizes mechanisms required for cell interactions with extracellular matrix, signaling and cytoskeletal regulation, cell migration, and tissue morphogenesis involved in embryonic development, tissue remodeling, and disease. It uses a variety of in vitro, organ culture, and in vivo approaches to understand the dynamics and regulation of cell interactions and tissue function.
Molecular Biology Section - HNP2G6

Identifies and characterizes the structure and function of extracellular matrix molecules, the regulatory mechanisms of their expression, novel proteins important for tissue development, and their role in acquired and genetic diseases. The Section uses a variety of molecular and cellular approaches using in vitro and in vivo experimental systems to elucidate the role of the extracellular matrix and regulatory factors in development and disease.
Seeks to identify and characterize the genetic abnormalities responsible for human diseases and disorders involving neurodegenerative processes, metabolic defects, and inflammation and to elucidate underlying molecular mechanisms by disrupting gene expression and signaling pathways using genetically altered mouse models. Ongoing research is aimed at understanding the functions of candidate genes that have been implicated in a number of human diseases, particularly of the craniofacial, nervous, and immune systems.
The goal of the Matrix and Morphogenesis Unit is to understand what drives organogenesis from the earliest stages of stem/progenitor cell commitment, maintenance, and differentiation, to growth, morphogenesis, and the formation of a functional organ. We aim to repair/regenerate organs using development as a template.
Microbial Biochemistry and Genetics Section - HNP2G9

(1) Identifies, purifies, and characterizes the enzymes that comprise the diverse fermentation pathways of bacteria comprising the oral microbiome; (2) further the understanding of the role(s) that fermentation products play in the etiology of oral diseases.
Microbial Receptors Section - HNP2GA

(1) Studies the structure, function and molecular biology of bacterial surface components that mediate adhesion of bacteria to the tooth surface, dental plaque biofilm formation and the subsequent initiation of inflammation at surrounding sites.
(1) Conducts basic research into the biological roles of a conserved protein modification (O-glycosylation) during development; (2) conducts basic research to elucidate how O-glycosylation influences secretion, secretory apparatus structure and ER stress, thereby influencing the composition of the cellular microenvironment; (3) conducts basic research into the hierarchical regulation of glycosylation and how this influences protein stability and function.
(1) Focuses on deciphering fundamental principles involved in sensory detection and perception; (2) studies sensory mechanisms with dental, oral or craniofacial relevance including pain, taste, somatosensation, and olfaction; (3) where relevant studies will be extended to develop translational strategies that may help treat sensory dysfunction particularly various types of pain; (4) also studies innate immunity, autoantibodies that predict disease and dense core and synaptic vesicle proteins that are involved in the secretion of hormones and neurotransmitters; and (5) conducts studies primarily using animal and cell based models and techniques such as molecular genetics, genetics, imaging, behavioral studies, array-based technology and electrophysiological recording.
Neurobiology and Pain Therapeutics Section - HNP2H2

(1) Addresses basic molecular and physiological processes of nociceptive transmission in the central nervous system, new ways to effectively treat intractable pain conditions, and develop new diagnostic tests for neuropathic pain conditions. (2) New treatment goals are addressed via human clinical trials and translational research, including molecular regulation of gene expression, studies neuronal function and circuits, and mechanisms of pain transduction at peripheral nerve endings and pharmacological interventions.
Taste and Smell Section - HNP2H3

(1) Researches techniques to investigate the detection and perception of taste and smell stimuli in mammals.
Experimental Medicine Section - HNP2H4

(1) Studies the identification of new autoantigens, the autoantibodies with which these autoantigens react and the value of autoantibodies in predicting the development of autoimmune diseases; (2) studies the properties and function of the autoantigens, and how they affect the secretion of hormones and neurotransmitters.
Division of Extramural Research - HNP3

(1) Plans, develops and manages research supported by grants, cooperative agreements and contracts in developmental biology and mammalian genetics, epithelial cell regulation and transformation, pharmacogenetics, bone and tooth physiology and injury, and molecular and cellular neuroscience; oral microbiology and microbial pathogenesis; immunology and immunotherapy; and AIDS and oral manifestations of immunosuppression; (2) oversees plans for support of research to ensure maximum utilization of available resources in the attainment of the Institute's objectives; (3) determines program priorities and recommends funding strategies for achieving portfolio and program goals; (4) collaborates with intramural and extramural staff at NIDCR and NIH and maintains awareness of national trends and research directions in areas relevant to NIDCR's mission; (5) provides advice on extramural research and science in general to the Institute Director, staff and advisory groups by preparing reports and analyses to facilitate implementation; (6) acts as an interface between the research community and the Federal government; (7) establishes and maintains effective relationships with the extramural research community and with dental and biomedical research institutions, with behavioral, public health and voluntary health professional organizations and with other agencies involved in research and research training activities in order to promote programmatic goals and new research initiatives; (8) explores opportunities for research and new sources of research funding; (9) actively fosters cooperative efforts involving scientific collaboration with U.S. and foreign investigators and funding arrangements involving cooperative efforts by public and private sector agencies and organizations; (10) fosters the development of training environments and opportunities in the extramural community; and (11) provides data, reports and analyses to assist NIDCR staff and advisory groups in carrying out their responsibilities.
Integrative Biology and Infectious Diseases Branch - HNP32

(1) Coordinates the NIDCR basic and translational research programs in immunology and immunotherapy, epithelial cell regulation and transformation, molecular and cellular neuroscience, microbiology, developmental biology and genetics, mineralized tissue and salivary gland physiology, and AIDS and immunosuppression; (2) collaborates with NIDCR program staff in setting an overall agenda for basic and translational integrative biology and infectious diseases research related to the mission of NIDCR; (3) coordinates the implementation of this integrative biology and infectious diseases research agenda; and (4) maintains liaison for integrative biology and infectious diseases research with the NIDCR extramural research community.
Translational Genomics Research Branch - HNP33

(1) Coordinates the NIDCR basic and translational genomics research program that spans the extramural research program; (2) collaborates with NIDCR program staff in setting an overall agenda for basic and translational genomics research related to the mission of NIDCR; (3) coordinates the implementation of this genomics research agenda; (4) provides scientific expertise to NIDCR in designing and developing genomic technology application and development efforts and in identifying opportunities to expand the application of emerging technologies related to human and microbial genetics and genomics; and (5) maintains liaison for genomics research with the NIDCR extramural research community.
Behavioral and Social Sciences Research Branch - HNP34

(1) Coordinates the NIDCR behavioral and social sciences research program that spans the extramural research program; (2) collaborates with NIDCR program staff in setting an overall agenda for behavioral and social sciences research related to the mission of NIDCR; (3) coordinates the implementation of this behavioral and social sciences research agenda; (4) provides scientific expertise to NIDCR in designing and developing behavioral sciences application efforts and in identifying opportunities to expand and integrate this area into the NIDCR extramural research programs; and (5) maintains liaison for behavioral and social sciences research with the NIDCR extramural research community.
Supports and conducts patient-oriented and population based research, data analysis, and related activities aimed at improving the oral, dental and craniofacial health of the nation. Specifically, the Center (1) develops, implements and oversees plans for the support of clinical research including clinical trials, practice-based networks, epidemiology, and health disparity research in all areas of programmatic interest to NIDCR; (2) determines program priorities and recommends funding strategies for clinical research; (3) collaborates with other NIH Institutes and Centers and other Government agencies involved in clinical research; (4) establishes and maintains effective relationships with the extramural research community, including academic health centers and their individual schools, professional dental organizations, biomedical and behavioral research organizations, and public and private institutions and community organizations to promote the Institute's goals and to implement new initiatives to support clinical research opportunities; (5) explores opportunities and needs in clinical research and complementary sources of funding; (6) actively fosters collaborations between investigators, institutions, and agencies in the United States and abroad to enhance cooperative efforts by public and private sector organizations; (7) develops, implements and supports programs designed to foster diversity in the scientific workforce and clinical research activities to study the health of vulnerable and special needs populations; (8) generates and provides data, reports, and analyses to assist NIDCR staff and advisory groups in their responsibilities; and (9) provides statistical expertise and support to both NIDCR extramural Divisions and assists in the planning, design, statistical evaluation, implementation, monitoring of genetic and clinical research.
Division of Extramural Activities - HNP7

Provides leadership and advice in developing, implementing, and coordinating extramural programs and policies, including training and career development mechanisms; (2) provides advice and guidelines to the Director and other Institute officials on issues related to policy and procedures for extramural affairs, training and career development; (3) represents the Institute on extramural program and policy issues within the NIH, the Department and with outside organizations; (4) provides reports and statistics related to Institute grant programs; (5) provides essential initial scientific review for applications assigned to the Institute, including program projects, research grants in response to RFAs, training, fellowship and career development grants, cooperative agreements, clinical research grants, new investigator grants, conference grants and R&D contracts, and ensures effective and proper grants management; (6) oversees Institute grants management activities; (7) oversees the Institute’s programmatic functions in training and career development; (8) manages and monitors all business aspects of grants and provides information and guidelines for grant applications; (9) coordinates and oversees the closed session of the National Advisory Dental and Craniofacial Research Council; (10) in conjunction with the Division of Intramural Research, coordinates and oversees review of intramural programs by the Board of Scientific Counselors; (11) undertakes program evaluation and planning in conjunction with the Division of Extramural Research, and the Office of Science Policy and Analysis; and functions as the liaison between the NIDCR and the NIH Office of Extramural Research and the Center for Scientific Review.
Grants Management Branch - HNP72

(1) Formulates, interprets, and applies Institute grants management policies and procedures; (2) conducts fiscal and administrative reviews of grant applications; (3) assists extramural scientific staff in grant negotiations; (4) reviews expenditure reports, proposed audit exceptions, etc., and takes action to resolve questions and problems; (5) provides grants processing and recording services; and (6) serves as liaison between the Institute's Division of Extramural Research, Division of Extramural Affairs and Budget Office in responding to a variety of issues concerning the use of extramural funds.
Scientific Review Branch - HNP73

(1) Provides the initial scientific and technical peer review of all Institute applications for grants, cooperative agreements, fellowship awards, and R&D contracts not reviewed by the Center for Scientific Review. These include applications for program projects, clinical trials, center grants, conference grants, research project grants in response to RFAs, institutional training and career development grants, fellowship awards, cooperative agreements, loan repayment contracts, and R&D contracts; (2) identifies and recruits qualified individuals to serve as members of scientific review groups (study sections), manages conflicts of interest, serves as the Designated Federal Official on study sections, and reports the outcome of review; (3) conducts scientific peer review according to all applicable federal laws, regulations and policy, (4) serves as a resource on NIH peer review to the Director and other Institute officials, and (5) maintains liaison for the Institute with other scientific peer review activities at NIH.
Research Training and Career Development Branch - HNP74

Oversees and coordinates the Institute’s programs for extramural fellowships, training grants, career development awards, NIH loan repayment awards and diversity supplements in accordance with the NIH and NIDCR policies and procedures; (2) plans and facilitates the development of research training programs to ensure an adequate number of talented, well-prepared and diverse investigators to conduct dental, oral and craniofacial research in the Institute’s scientific priority areas; (3) serves as the liaison between NIDCR and potential and current grantees concerning program areas, research priorities, and grant applications and review procedures; and (4) disseminates research training and career development information at scientific meetings and conferences to foster long-term growth in the dental, oral and craniofacial research workforce.