Conducts, fosters, and supports research on the causes, natural history, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disorders of the eye and visual system, and in related fields (including rehabilitation) through:

- Research performed in its own laboratories and through contracts;
- A program of research grants, individual and institutional research training awards;
- Cooperation and collaboration with voluntary organizations and other institutions engaged in research and training in the special health problems of the blind;
- The direction of the National Eye Health Education Program; and
- Collection and dissemination of information on research and findings in these areas.