Provides leadership and formulates research goals and long-term plans to accomplish the Institute’s mission of child health; maternal health; problems of human development, with special reference to intellectual and developmental disabilities; family structure and the dynamics of human population; the reproductive process; and medical rehabilitation;

- Conducts, fosters, and supports biomedical and behavioral research through research grants, research contracts, and research performed in its own laboratories;
- Supports training in fundamental sciences and clinical disciplines through individual and institutional research training awards;
- Promotes the application of research findings to clinical practice;
- Cooperates in government-wide efforts to improve health and provides consultation to Federal agencies and non-Federal groups in the development of programs to improve health;
- Coordinates and integrates research efforts with service-oriented health agencies; and
- Disseminates information related to research findings to practitioners and the general public for improving health.