

# NIH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IOM RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

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# Recommendation: 5-1.

**Designate a lead institute at the National Institutes of Health responsible for moving pain research forward, and increase the support for and scope of the Pain Consortium**

## **Response:**

- The NIH Director designated NINDS as the specific IC to lead NIH's pain research efforts. The NINDS Director chairs the Pain Consortium Executive Committee and will enhance coordination of trans-NIH pain research efforts.
- NINDS will establish a dedicated office to support all activities of the NIH Pain Consortium and IPRCC.
- The NIH Pain Consortium:
  - organized or funded a number of pain disorder conferences and workshops (CFS, vulvodynia, sickle cell pain, TMJD) in 2011 to identify gaps and opportunities.
  - established new trans-NIH working groups on chronic low back pain and overlapping chronic pain conditions, and a workshop focused on overlapping pain conditions is scheduled for 2012

# Recommendation: 5-2

## Improve the process for developing new agents for pain control

### Response:

- Recently established NIH-FDA Leadership council to enhance coordination of efforts to improve regulatory science and drug development pipeline.
- Members of the Pain Consortium currently participate in an advisory committee for the Analgesic Clinical Trial Translations, Innovations, Opportunities, and Networks (ACTTION) initiative,
- In May 2012, NIH is helping FDA coordinate a state of the science workshop on assessing opioid efficacy and analgesic treatment that will be held in conjunction with the 7th Annual NIH Pain Consortium Symposium, which is focusing on advancing pain therapies.
- NIH supporting development of chronic pain medications that could circumvent the problematic side effects (e.g. tolerance and dependence) of many current medications through basic research and translation drug development programs Example: Resolvins

# Recommendation: 5-3

## Increase support for interdisciplinary research in pain

Response:

NIH supports a wide range of interdisciplinary pain research. Some recent examples include:

- Collaborative Research on the Transition From Acute to Chronic Pain: New Models and Measures in Clinical and Preclinical Pain Research
- Fostering the Development of Interdisciplinary Team Science for the Study of Interstitial Cystitis/Painful Bladder Syndrome (IC/PBS)
- NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research Grand Challenge on the Transition from Acute to Chronic Neuropathic Pain
- Vulvodynia – Systematic Epidemiologic, Etiologic or Therapeutic Studies

The IPRCC has been tasked with identifying gaps in basic and clinical pain research and making recommendations for coordination of pain research. The portfolio analysis underway could inform recommendations relating to interdisciplinary research.

# Recommendation: 5-4.

## Increase the conduct of longitudinal research in pain

**Response:** NIH currently supports longitudinal studies on a number of chronic pain conditions including:

- fibromyalgia,
- low back pain,
- pelvic pain, and
- temporomandibular joint disorders (TMJD)
- The Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS®) [www.nihpromis.org](http://www.nihpromis.org) is creating psychometrically-robust patient-reported banks of questions to measure pain in clinical trials for various chronic diseases
- IPRCC assessment of current federal support of epidemiological pain studies could inform recommendations on future directions and priorities in these areas.

# Recommendation: 5-5.

## Increase the training of pain researchers

### Response:

- The NIH Pain Consortium is encouraging medical, dental, nursing and pharmacy schools to respond to a new funding opportunity to develop Centers of Excellence in Pain Education (CoEPEs).
- NIH sponsors training opportunities such as the National Institute of Nursing Research's intramural Methodologies Boot Camp to develop improved research capacity in the science of pain.
- The National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research will support new Institutional Career Development Awards for Enhancing Research Capacity in TMJD and Orofacial Pain (K12) to develop independent clinical scientists.
- As part of the IPRCC, NIH is collecting information on current federally-supported training activities for pain researchers.

# NIH Pain Consortium

Centers of Excellence in Pain Education



- 1) Pain course development in medical, nursing, dental and pharmacy schools.
  - 1) Curriculum for health care professionals that will advance the assessment, diagnosis, and safe treatment of pain.
  - 2) Case-based scenarios will form the backbone of the curriculum resource
- 2) Collaborations are encouraged
- 3) Goal: to integrate new resources on pain management into existing training programs.
- 4) Dissemination!

Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> : *RFP released*  
March 5<sup>th</sup> : *Applications due*  
April 30<sup>th</sup> : *Award date*