

# Behavioral Research Program (BRP)

Behavioral research in the context of cancer control is the study of the initiation, conclusion, or maintenance of actions to prevent, detect, or ameliorate the effects of cancer. Behavioral and psychosocial factors can predict or influence many cancer-related health outcomes.

The Behavioral Research Program (BRP) is within the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences. BRP initiates, supports, and evaluates a comprehensive program of research including basic behavioral and psychological science as well as the development, testing, and dissemination of interventions in cancer control areas such as tobacco use, diet and energy balance, and sun protection.

Our goal is to increase the breadth, depth, and quality of behavioral research in cancer prevention and control.



Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch (BBPSB)

Health Behaviors Research Branch (HBRB)

Health Communication and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB)

Tobacco Control Research Branch (TCRB)

## Program Leadership

View the complete staff list with research areas and contact information; learn more about our network of mentorship and collaboration; and browse career and training announcements at [staffprofiles.cancer.gov/brp](http://staffprofiles.cancer.gov/brp) and [behavioralresearch.cancer.gov](http://behavioralresearch.cancer.gov).



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## Programmatic Priority Areas

- **Cancer-related Health Behaviors**  
Modifiable behavioral risk factors, including tobacco use, energy balance, and sun exposure
- **Biopsychosocial Processes of Cancer-related Behaviors**  
Biological, psychological, and social mechanisms related to cancer prevention, detection, and treatment; maintenance of healthy lifestyle behaviors
- **Communication, Decision Science, and Policy in Cancer Control**  
Communication of health information to patients, providers, and policymakers; effects on decision-making and behavior
- **Analytic Methods and New Technologies**  
Surveillance of social and behavioral predictors of health and the use of big data, theory, and new technologies

**Funding** Major funding areas include research project grants, Cancer Centers and Centers of Excellence, and research and development contracts. Although many investigator-initiated (unsolicited) applications are received for new, expanded, and/or high-priority programs, BRP may also support grant applications through program announcements (PA) or Requests for Applications (RFA) in a specific area of interest.

Research priorities are defined in each of the branch missions; you are also encouraged to contact program staff to learn more about behavioral research at the NCI.

- **BBPSB** advances research in biobehavioral mechanisms and psychological processes to reduce cancer risk and improve outcomes.
- **HBRB** supports leadership and research on multilevel approaches to individual, relational, environmental, and community-based interventions on cancer prevention behaviors and outcomes, including diet, physical activity, sun safety and indoor tanning, genetic influences on behaviors, and virus exposure.
- **HCIRB** supports research that examines the fundamental processes and effects of health communication and informatics on cancer-related outcomes across the cancer control continuum via interpersonal, patient-provider, print, electronic, mass media, mobile, and technology-mediated mechanisms.
- **TCRB** leads and collaborates on research and disseminates evidence-based findings to prevent, treat, and control tobacco use.

**SUBSCRIBE** to receive NCI Behavioral Research Program email updates on funding news, training and career announcements, and research events and advances at [cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/e-newsletter/subscribe.html](https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/e-newsletter/subscribe.html).

### Select Funding Opportunity Announcements in BRP (updated June 2016)

<b>Stimulating Innovations in Behavioral Intervention Research for Cancer Prevention and Control</b> PAR-16-278 (R21)	<b>Contact: Tanya Agurs-Collins</b> 240-276-6956 <a href="mailto:tanya.agurs-collins@nih.gov">tanya.agurs-collins@nih.gov</a>	
<b>Innovative Approaches to Studying Cancer Communication in the New Media Environment</b> PAR-16-249 (R01) & PAR-16-248 (R21)	<b>Contact: Kelly Blake</b> 240-281-5934 <a href="mailto:kelly.blake@nih.gov">kelly.blake@nih.gov</a>	
<b>Predicting Behavioral Responses to Population-Level Cancer Control Strategies</b> PAR-16-257 (R21)	<b>Contact: Rebecca Ferrer</b> 301-852-1167 <a href="mailto:rebecca.ferrer@nih.gov">rebecca.ferrer@nih.gov</a>	
<b>Improving Smoking Cessation in Socioeconomically Disadvantaged Populations via Scalable Interventions</b> PAR-16-202 (R01) & PAR-16-201 (R21)	<b>Contact: Yvonne Hunt</b> 240-276-6975 <a href="mailto:yvonne.hunt@nih.gov">yvonne.hunt@nih.gov</a>	
<b>Cancer-related Behavioral Research through Integrating Existing Data</b> PAR-16-256 (R01) & PAR-16-255 (R21)	<b>Contact: Richard Moser</b> 240-276-6915 <a href="mailto:richard.moser@nih.gov">richard.moser@nih.gov</a>	
<b>Leveraging Cognitive Neuroscience Research to Improve Assessment of Cancer Treatment Related Cognitive Impairment</b> PAR-16-212 (R01) & PAR-16-213 (R21)	<b>Contact: Jerry Suls</b> 240-276-6811 <a href="mailto:jerry.suls@nih.gov">jerry.suls@nih.gov</a>	

A complete list of funding opportunities for BRP can be found at [cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/funding/](https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/funding/)

## Key Initiatives, Tools, and Resources

- Cognitive, Affective, and Social Processes in Health Research (CASPHR) Workgroup
- Classification of Laws Associated with School Students (CLASS)
- Family Life, Activity, Sun, Health, and Eating (FLASHE) Study
- Grid-Enabled Measures (GEM)
- Health Disparities Research
- Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS)
- National Cancer Institute Network on Biobehavioral Pathways in Cancer
- Smokefree.gov & Smokefree Women
- State and Community Tobacco Control Policy and Media Research
- Tobacco Control Monograph Series



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