

# Business Opportunities at the National Institutes of Health

## NIH OVERVIEW

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is world-renowned for its research activities and support of health-related research and is considered by many scientists as the world's premier biomedical research institution. NIH has a mission to pursue fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and to apply that knowledge to extend healthy life and reduce the burdens of illness and disability. NIH works toward this mission of improving public health, not only by conducting research in its own laboratories, but also by supporting the research of non-Federal scientists in non-profit and for-profit organizations.

NIH research covers a broad spectrum of public health concerns, including:

Aging	Infectious diseases
Auditory and visual system disorders	Mental health
Biomedical imaging/engineering	Metabolic and hormonal disorders
Cancer	Musculoskeletal disorders
Child health	Neurological diseases
Complementary/alternative medicine	Oral and dental diseases
Drug/alcohol addiction	Rare diseases
Genetic and developmental disorders	Respiratory illnesses
Health disparities	Women's health
Heart disease	

## Technology Transfer

Each year, a wealth of scientific discoveries emanates from NIH's intramural (in-house) laboratories; the NIH Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) manage these technology portfolios to ensure the development of technologies. This is largely done through their patenting, co-development, licensing, and marketing efforts. Ultimately, these efforts create a vital link between discovery and the market that supports NIH's primary mission of improving public health.

The NIH technology licensing program is one of the most successful technology transfer programs in the US Government. From FY 2013 through FY 2017, NIH executed over 1280 licenses, and royalty income for the same period exceeded \$670 million. But the numbers do not tell the full story. The benefits to public health and the research enterprise in general from all the life-saving drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, other biomedical products and research tools represent the true benefit of these NIH-industry partnerships.

For general technology transfer-related questions, please e-mail us at [nihott@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nihott@mail.nih.gov).

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Listed on the reverse are some of the major ways businesses may interact with the NIH.

### NIH at a Glance

*The National Institutes of Health, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is comprised of 27 separate components (known as Institutes and Centers). NIH has 75 buildings on more than 300 acres in Bethesda, Maryland, with additional facilities elsewhere in Maryland and in North Carolina, Arizona, and Montana.*

*From a total of about \$300 in 1887, the NIH budget has grown to nearly \$37.3 billion in 2018. Approximately 80 percent of NIH funding is directed to grants and contracts supporting research and training in more than 2,500 non-profit and for-profit organizations throughout the U.S. and abroad (extramural research). Approximately 10 percent of the budget goes to NIH's Intramural Research Programs, supporting projects conducted by nearly 6,000 scientists in its own laboratories. About 10 percent of the budget is for both intramural and extramural research support costs.*

*About 300,000 researchers – working in every State and in many foreign countries – receive NIH extramural funding to explore unknown areas of medical science. Supporting NIH's extramural activities and conducting intramural research are about 18,000 employees, including nearly 6,000 intramural research scientists.*

*Those who have conducted research, or who have received NIH support over the years, include 153 scientists who have won Nobel Prizes. Five Nobelists made their prize-winning discoveries in NIH laboratories.*



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## Technology Licensing and Collaboration Agreements

The NIH TTOs carry out patenting and licensing functions. A listing of the NIH TTOs is shown below; several\* provide technology transfer services for other Institutes and Centers. Contact information for these offices may be found at <https://www.ott.nih.gov/tdcs>.

- **NCATS – National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences**  
[Office of Strategic Alliances](#)
  - **NCI – National Cancer Institute**  
[Technology Transfer Center\\*](#)
  - **NHGRI – National Human Genome Research Institute**  
[Technology Transfer Office](#)
  - **NHLBI – National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute**  
[Office of Technology Transfer and Development\\*](#)
  - **NIAID – National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases**  
[Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Office\\*](#)
  - **NIDCR – National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research**  
[Office of Technology Transfer and Innovation Access](#)
  - **NIDDK – National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases**  
[Technology Advancement Office](#)
  - **NIMH – National Institute of Mental Health**  
[Office of Technology Transfer](#)
  - **NINDS – National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke**  
[Technology Transfer Office](#)
- ▶ These TTOs also assist with related technology transfer activities, such as Collaborative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs), Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs), Clinical Trial Agreements (CTAs), and other collaboration agreements.
- ▶ General information on the NIH intramural licensing program may be found at the NIH Office of Technology Transfer website at <https://www.ott.nih.gov/licensing>.
- ▶ Abstracts for technologies currently available for out-licensing, and the appropriate contact information, may be accessed via <https://www.ott.nih.gov/opportunities>. The NIH Office of Technology Transfer also distributes abstracts via an RSS feed; visit <https://www.ott.nih.gov/rss> to join this service. Some NIH TTOs may also distribute announcements about their opportunities via an e-mail system; information will be available at their websites.

## Grant Opportunities

Approximately 80% of the \$37.3 billion NIH budget for FY 2018 was awarded through grants. Applicants for most grant programs can be either for-profit or non-profit organizations. Visit the NIH Office of Extramural Research web site at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/oer.htm>.

## Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) / Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Programs

The NIH has a program with funding set aside to support small business entities conducting research (recipients must be at least 51% U.S. owned). Detailed information on these opportunities may be found at <https://sbir.nih.gov/>.

## R&D Contracting Opportunities

Being a large research organization, the NIH has numerous R&D contracting opportunities. For information on such opportunities, visit the NIH Office of Extramural Research – Contracts web site at <https://grants.nih.gov/funding/contracts.htm>.