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

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.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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