

# Report to the National Toxicology Program Board of Scientific Counselors

Rick Woychik, PhD, Director  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
National Toxicology Program

NTP Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting  
December 3, 2020



## NEWS RELEASES

Thursday, June 11, 2020

# NIH names Rick Woychik director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

*Woychik will lead NIH's research efforts on environmental influences on human health and also serve as director of the U.S. National Toxicology Program.*



National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., has appointed Richard (Rick) P. Woychik, Ph.D., as director of NIH's National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. Dr. Woychik served as acting director of the NIEHS since October 2019 and officially began his new role as the NIEHS director on June 7, 2020. NIEHS conducts and supports environmental health sciences in alignment with real-world public health needs and translates scientific findings into knowledge that can inform real-life individual and public health outcomes.

"Innovation has been a hallmark of Rick's scientific career and it's at the center of his vision for leading NIEHS," said Dr. Collins. "He will be working to support new technologies and scientific approaches throughout the field of environmental health sciences – applying his proven skills in scientific excellence, creativity, and rigor to improving public health."

Woychik is highly respected for a long list of accomplishments in mammalian genetics and environmental epigenetics. His laboratory was the first to identify a gene associated with polycystic kidney disease, the first to connect a protocadherin gene ultimately linked to hearing loss in Cushing's disease patients, and the first to clone an obesity-related gene called *agouti*. Dr. Woychik says his passion for epigenetics and environmental health sciences started when his research group discovered that the obesity trait associated with one of the *agouti* mutant mouse lines was influenced by the epigenome



Dr. Rick Woychik named NIEHS Director

### Institute/Center

[National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences \(NIEHS\)](#)

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	FY 2018 Enacted	FY 2019 Enacted	FY 2020 President's Request	FY 2020 House Bill	FY 2020 Senate Bill	FY 2020 Enacted	Δ Between FY2020 and FY 2019 (%)
NIEHS	\$751,143,000	\$774,707,000	\$666,857,000	\$812,570,000	\$815,729,000	\$802,598,000	↑ 3.6%
NIH (LHHS) <sup>a/</sup>	\$37,084,000,000	\$39,079,000,000	\$34,151,048,000	\$41,084,000,000	\$42,084,000,000	\$41,684,000,000	↑ 6.7%
Common Fund <sup>b/</sup>	\$600,716,000 <sup>c/</sup>	\$619,166,000	\$532,967,000	\$617,761,000	\$638,751,000	\$626,511,000	↑ 1.2%
Superfund	\$77,349,000	\$79,000,000	\$66,581,000	\$80,000,000	\$81,000,000	\$81,000,000	↑ 2.6%
NIEHS/DOE Training <sup>d/</sup>	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000			\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	No Change

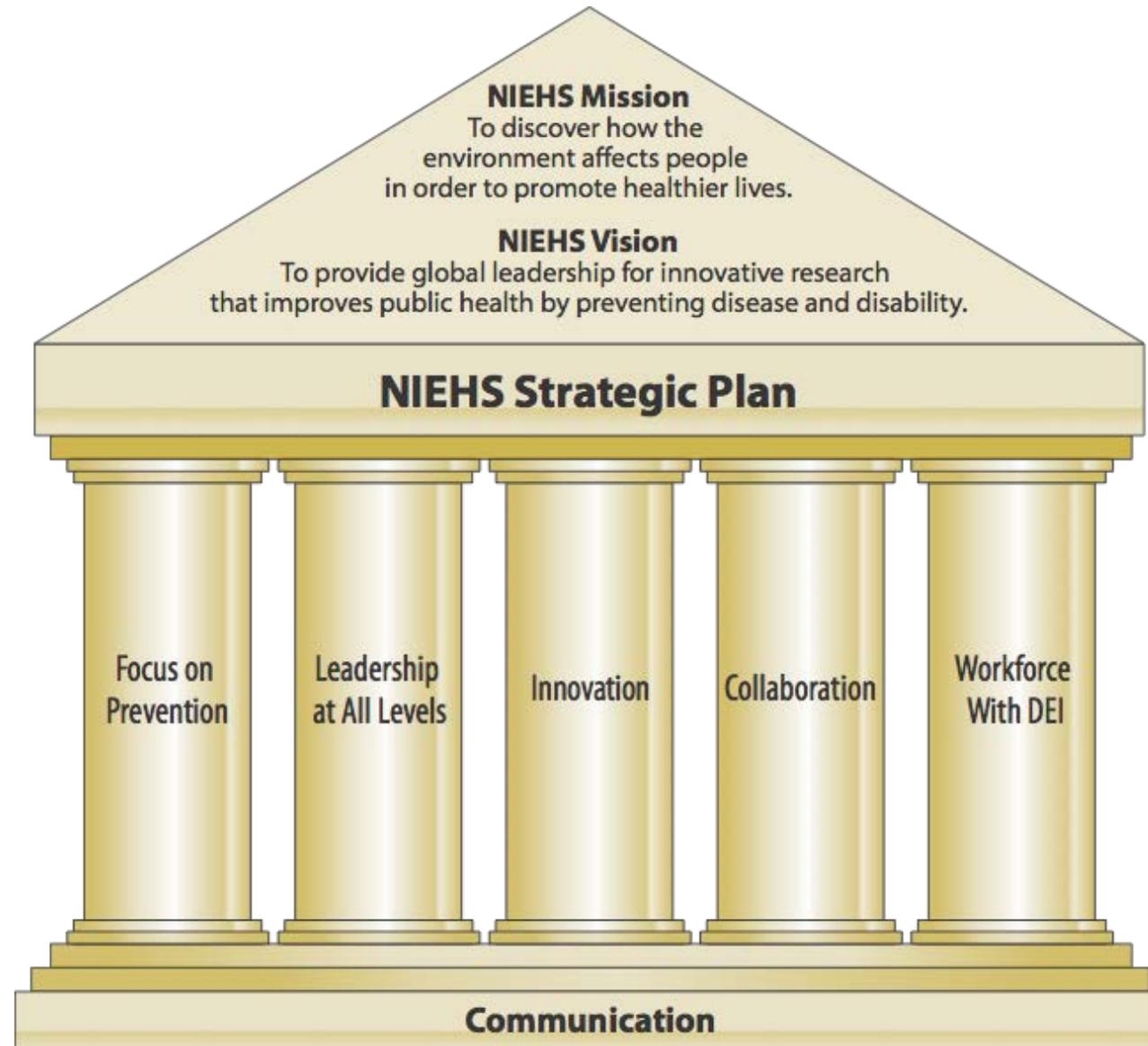
a/ Excludes Mandatory Type 1 Diabetes Research and Superfund.

b/ Includes addition of \$12.6 million for the Gabriella Miller Kids First Act pediatric research initiative.

c/ Excludes \$60 million "All of US" funding which the committee moved to the NIH Office of the Director.

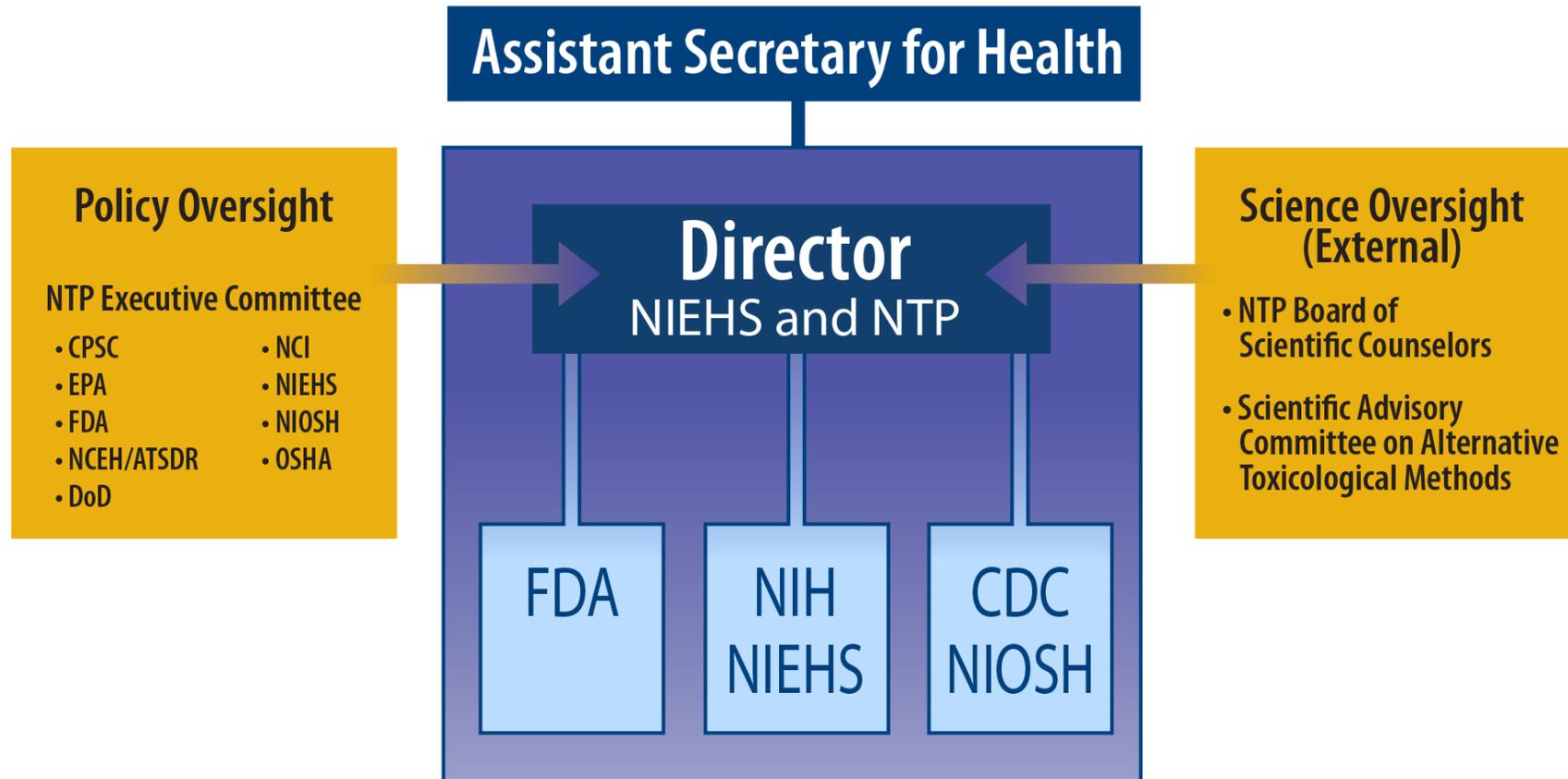
d/ Appropriations Committee report language supporting the transfer of funds from the U.S. Department of Energy's Defense Environmental Cleanup account to NIEHS for the NIEHS/DOE Nuclear Worker Training Program.

# 5 Pillars to Enable the NIEHS Vision

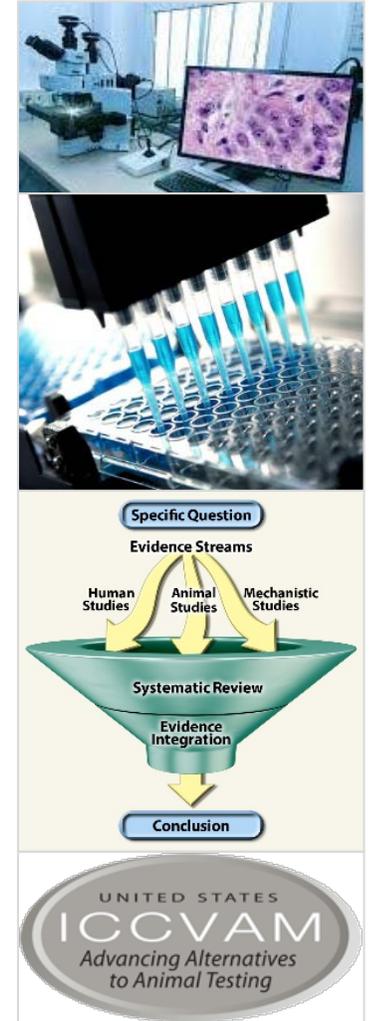




## National Toxicology Program, DHHS (Headquartered at NIEHS)

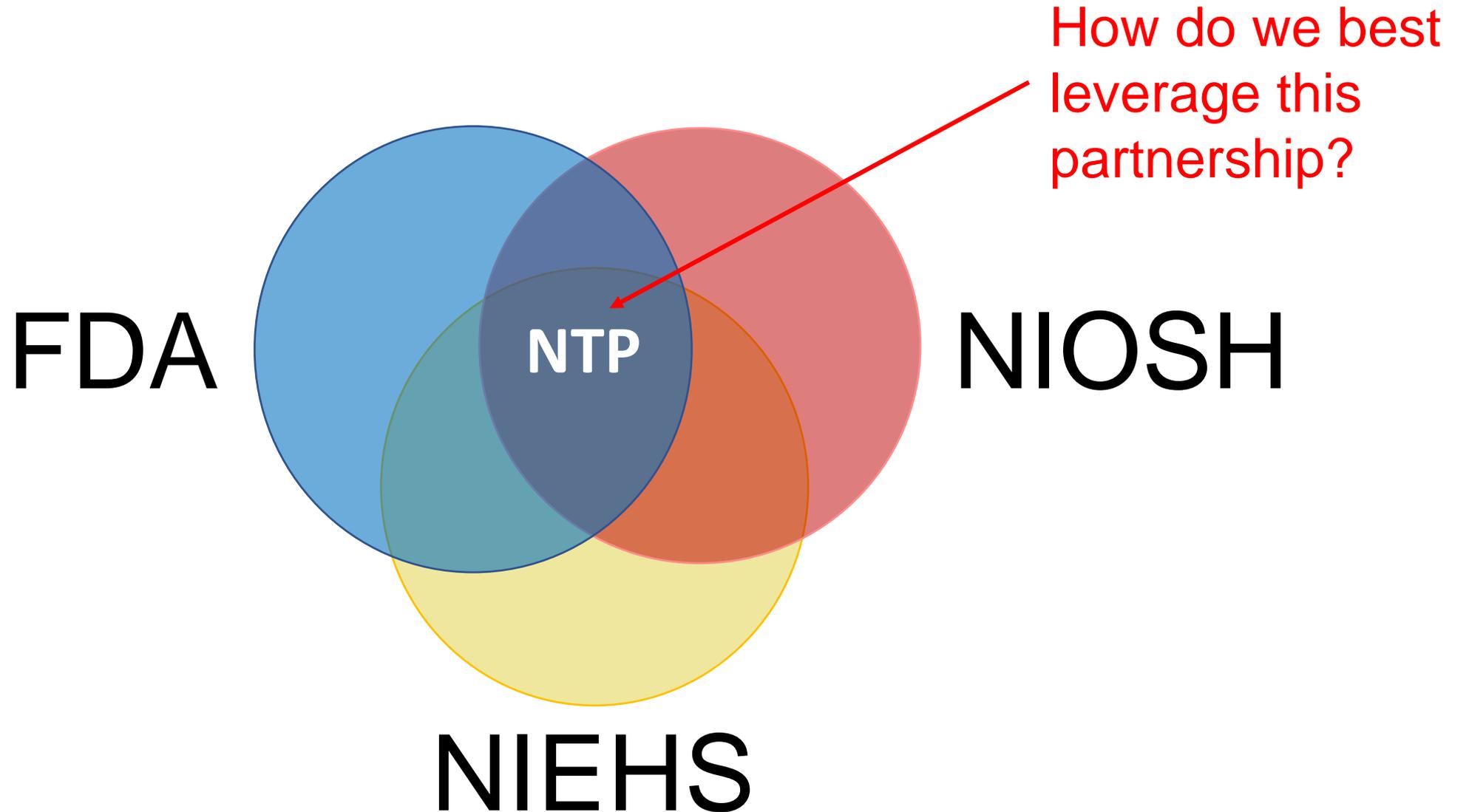


- Regulatory guideline studies
- Exposure research
- Mechanistic research
- Integrated, literature-based health assessments
- New capability development



# Enhancing and Strengthening NTP in the 21st Century

# NTP Principals' Partnership



## To best position the NTP for continued responsiveness and to enhance its effectiveness for addressing 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges

- NIOSH, NIEHS, and FDA
  - Conduct a SWOT analysis to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats
  - Define a shared Vision, examine NTP’s Mission for accomplishing, and examine values
  - Codify the NTP partnership via a Memorandum of Understanding
- Engage the NTP Executive Committee about NTP’s future and examine their role
- Identify and engage other stakeholders about NTP’s future
  - We engaged you – BSC Meeting on Oct 9, 2018

1. What is NTP’s unique value?
2. What does it mean to be “human relevant”? How do we appropriately contextualize hazard?
3. How do we build confidence in non-traditional evidence (e.g., *in silico* and *in vitro*)?
4. What partnerships should we be leveraging?



## Moving Forward

NTP's strategic planning effort should provide clear insights into a jointly developed and executed program, focused on enhancing NTP's effectiveness and stature as a global leader in toxicology research and a resource for critical information on harmful exposures that informs decisions for a healthier tomorrow.

We look forward to sharing  
NTP's Strategic Planning with you

# Thank You!

## Questions, Comments, Concerns?





**NTP**

National Toxicology Program

*In appreciation for your service on the  
NTP Board of Scientific Counselors*

**Retiring Members**

Paul W. Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD

Myrtle Davis, DVM, PhD, ATS

Jennifer Sass, PhD

Donald G. Stump, PhD, DABT, ATS