

Charge to the Panel

NIAID's intent is to develop a long-term strategy to develop vaccines to prevent disease in both children and adults. This panel was convened to review the overall goals of the NIAID program for vaccine research and in particular to focus on priorities for the use of additional resources that maybe made available in FY 1993 and 1994. The panel was asked to consider research priorities and the plan in the context of three broad questions:

1. What are the major priorities for vaccine research for the near term?
2. How can NIAID take maximal advantage of developments in basic research in immunology, microbiology, and allied disciplines to accelerate the development of vaccines?
3. How can NIAID maximize interactions with industry and other groups in the private sector to accelerate the development of new vaccines?

It should be added that the plan presented to the panel did not include proposed activities supporting HIV vaccine development.

Summary of Review by the Panel

The panel reviewed the key elements of the vaccine research program at NIAID. Extensive portfolios of investigator-initiated research projects in infectious diseases, microbiology, and immunology are complemented by intramural laboratories, collaborations with industry, and research groups that focus, at least in part, on the study of key areas of vaccinology. In addition, NIAID supports to a lesser extent the preclinical evaluation of vaccines in animal models and primates and the development of reagents and reference serologic assays. Finally, the clinical evaluation of vaccines is supplemented by the regulatory support infrastructure NIAID developed over the past decades.

What are the major priorities for vaccine research for the near term?

In setting priorities for vaccine research, NIAID uses the technical advice of expert groups, such as the Institute of Medicine. NIAID also seeks advice and information from a wide variety of sources to integrate into its priority-setting process. This information includes an assessment of the technical feasibility of a particular vaccine, a determination of the involvement of other groups—primarily industry—in pursuing a specific priority, and the public health importance of the problem. NIAID also considers the emergence or reemergence of diseases, advances in molecular biology and immunology, the Children's Vaccine Initiative (CVI), and

¹NIAID, primarily through its Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, supports six Vaccine and Treatment Evaluation Units (VTEU), one Mucosal Immunization Research Group (MIRG), one Maternal Immunization Group (MIG), seven International Collaborations in Infectious Disease Research (ICIDR), three Tropical Medicine Research Centers (TMRC), five Sexually Transmitted Diseases Cooperative Research Centers (STDCRC), and four Tropical Disease Research Units (TDRU).