



Your Environment. Your Health.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) is one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

NIEHS is located in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Director

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D., is the director of NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program (NTP). She is the first toxicologist to head an NIH institute.

Mission

NIEHS – Research to discover how the environment affects people in order to promote healthier lives.

NTP – An interagency program that tests and evaluates chemicals in our environment.

NIEHS and NTP Research at Work

Protecting family health

- Funding [Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers](#) to help ensure that all children live in a safe and healthy environment.
- Leading the [GuLF STUDY](#), a health study for oil spill workers and volunteers following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, and supporting [university-community partnerships](#) to support Gulf region research efforts.
- Searching for environmental causes of breast cancer, through the [Sister Study](#) and the [Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program](#).
- NTP and NIEHS are funding researchers to study [bisphenol A and other endocrine-disrupting chemicals](#), especially how they may impact development.

*"NIEHS is the premier environmental health research institution in the world dedicated to preventing diseases."
– Linda Birnbaum*

- NTP is conducting research to help determine if [cell phones](#) have health risks.
- Investigating if adult diseases, such as obesity, diabetes, infertility, and some cancers, are linked to chemical exposures during [early life development](#).
- Researching disorders such as [autism](#) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, to understand if there is a link to the environment.

Engaging communities

- NIEHS [Superfund Research Programs](#) are working to reduce or eliminate the negative impacts on communities from hazardous waste sites.
- [NIEHS Partnerships for Environmental Public Health \(PEPH\)](#) brings communities and scientists together.
- [The Clinical Research Unit](#) hosts collaborative research between NIEHS and local North Carolina universities that moves laboratory science into disease prevention and treatment.
- Questioning how [global climate change](#) may affect human health.

Supporting new science

- Developing [new technologies](#) to measure environmental exposures, diet, physical activities, psychosocial stress, and other factors that contribute to disease.
- Moving toward more efficient chemical testing, [Tox21](#) brings together NIEHS and NTP, the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)/NIH Chemical Genomics Center (NCGC), EPA, and FDA.
- Because people are exposed to many chemicals simultaneously, NIEHS and NTP are studying the health risks of [chemical mixtures](#).
- NIEHS and NTP are promoting [green chemistry](#) to identify safe, new alternative products.
- Researching the health effects of [engineered nanomaterials](#).

Monthly Publications

[The Environmental Factor](#) is the NIEHS newsletter available online or by e-mail. www.niehs.nih.gov/factor

[Environmental Health Perspectives \(EHP\)](#) is a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by NIEHS. www.ehponline.org