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

[www.niehs.nih.gov](http://www.niehs.nih.gov)
• 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