



National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
*Your Environment. Your Health.*

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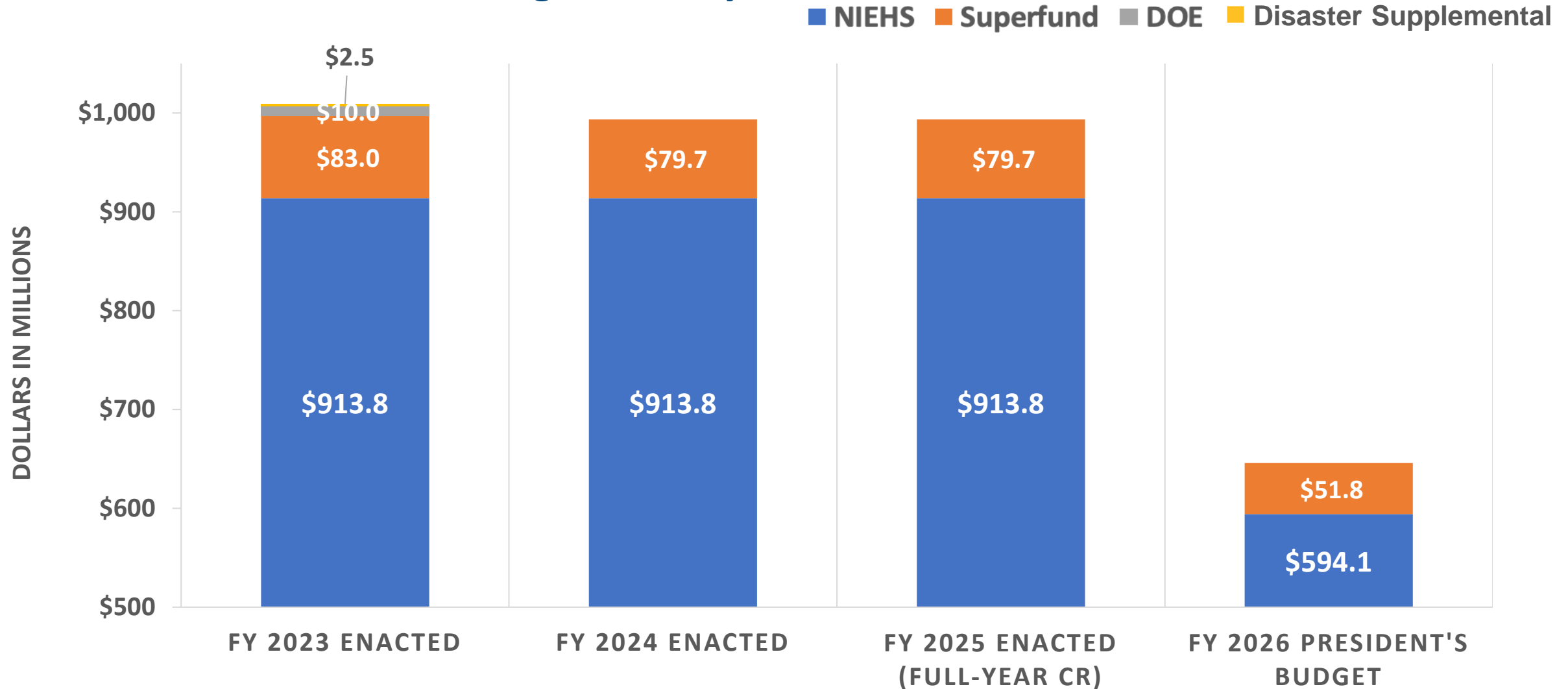
# Report to the National Advisory Environmental Health Sciences Council

**Rick Woychik, Ph.D.**  
**Director**

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and  
National Toxicology Program

**June 5, 2025**

## NIEHS FY 2023-2026 Funding Summary



Enacted appropriations levels for NIEHS are post-AIDS transfer

## FY26 President's Budget Request

- Proposed President's Budget HHS reorganization changes to NIEHS:
  - Moves NIEHS to the new proposed agency, the Administration for a Healthy America (AHA)
  - NIEHS would be a part of the Environment Health account with NIOSH and other parts of CDC
  - Additionally, AHA combines the work of the:
    - Office of Assistant Secretary for Health (OASH)
    - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
    - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
    - Several centers and programs formerly in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

## **Make America Healthy Again (MAHA): Environmental Health Sciences Elements**

- **Tackling the Chronic Disease Epidemic:**  
Seeking a national strategy to address the root causes of America's chronic disease crisis – including environmental toxins and poor diets.
- **Eliminate Toxic Additives in Food and Consumer Products:**  
Calls for banning harmful chemicals such as endocrine disruptors, pesticides, and artificial additives.
- **Promote Clean Water and Air Initiatives:**  
Emphasizes infrastructure investment to ensure access to uncontaminated drinking water and breathable air.



**Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.**  
**HHS Secretary**

## Dr. Bhattacharya's Vision for NIH Building Blocks to Improving Health

- **Improve Population Health**

- NIH must address the health needs of the American people and find better ways to prevent, treat, and cure chronic diseases.

- **Ensure reliable results**

- NIH-supported science should be replicable, reproducible, and generalizable.

- **Make big advances**

- NIH must invest in innovation, and embrace new technologies, new ideas, and new approaches to old problems.



**Dr. Jay Bhattacharya**  
**NIH Director**

## Meeting with Dr. Jay Bhattacharya

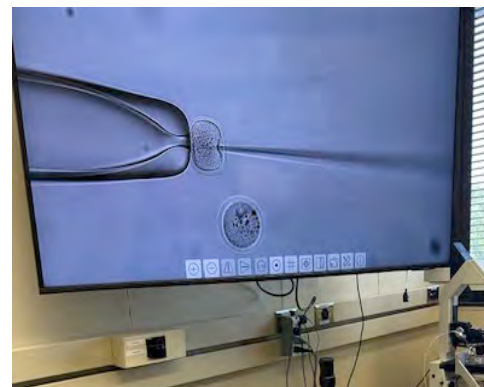
- Sees the tremendous value of NIEHS in realizing his vision for:
  - Very enthusiastic with the NIEHS Strategic Plan
  - Improving population health
  - Making big advances
- Messages in these interactions in Bethesda:
  - Chronic diseases arise from gene x environment interactions
  - Environmental health sciences must be fully integrated into how NIH studies the etiology of human disease
  - NIEHS is woven into the scientific fabric of the broader NIH mission



**Dr. Jay Bhattacharya**  
**NIH Director**

## NIEHS Hosts Mr. Eric Schnable, NIH Chief Operating Officer

- Led by J Mathis and the Office of Management
- A full campus tour, with stops at:
  - Gene Editing and Mouse Model Core Facility
  - CryoEM
- Priorities focus on supporting the critical operations and daily functions that allow NIH to thrive
  - Security & Safety
  - Infrastructure
  - Conducting Routine Things, Routinely
  - Commitment to Professionalism and Discipline





## Meeting with Dr. Stephanie Haridopolos

- Interested in Dr. Alison Motsinger-Reif's work on polyexposure scores serving as the best predictor of disease development, performing better than a polygenic score.
  - Polyexposure score: The combined environmental risk score calculated using exposures that can be modified or addressed through targeted interventions.
- Attended the Exposome Moonshot Forum in D.C.
- Invited Dr. Janine Santos to meet with HHS on her group's work in the Mitochondria Toxicology and Biology Group at NIEHS.



**Dr. Stephanie Haridopolos**  
**Acting Chief of Staff**  
**Office of the Surgeon General**  
**HHS**





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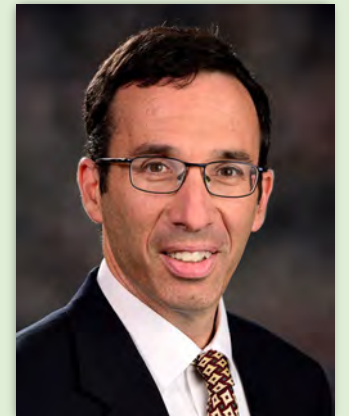
# NIEHS and NTP Staff Updates

## CRB Updates, Dr. Mike Fessler Selected as Clinical Director

- Dr. Janet Hall retired from federal service in March 2025, after 10 years at NIEHS.
- Dr. Fessler began serving as Clinical Director on December 29, 2024, after serving as Acting Clinical Director since July 2024.
  - He began his career at NIEHS as a Tenure Track Investigator in the Intramural Research Program (IRP) in 2006.
  - Dr. Fessler has served as the Chief of the Immunity, Inflammation, and Disease Laboratory (IIDL) since 2018.
  - He received his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1996.



**Janet Hall, MD**



**Mike Fessler, MD**  
**Clinical Director**

## OCPL Updates: Christine Flowers Retires, and Jesse Saffron Takes the Helm

- After more than 20 years of outstanding service to NIEHS as OCPL Director, Christine retired on February 28, 2025.
- Jesse Saffron has taken on the role of OCPL Acting Director.
  - Jesse received his JD from the University of Baltimore School of Law and has been with NIEHS for almost 6 years.



**Christine Flowers,  
MA**



**Jesse Saffron, JD  
Acting OCPL Director**

## Office of Strategic Coordination, Planning, and Evaluation (SCOPE) Updates

- Gwen Collman has stepped down as Director of SCOPE and retired from federal service.
  - We are incredibly grateful for her 41 years of outstanding contributions and leadership
- Nicole Garbarini assumed the role of Director of SCOPE.
  - Nicole brings a strong background in policy and coordination from across the NIH to SCOPE.



**Gwen Collman,  
PhD**



**Nicole Garbarini, PhD**  
Director of SCOPE

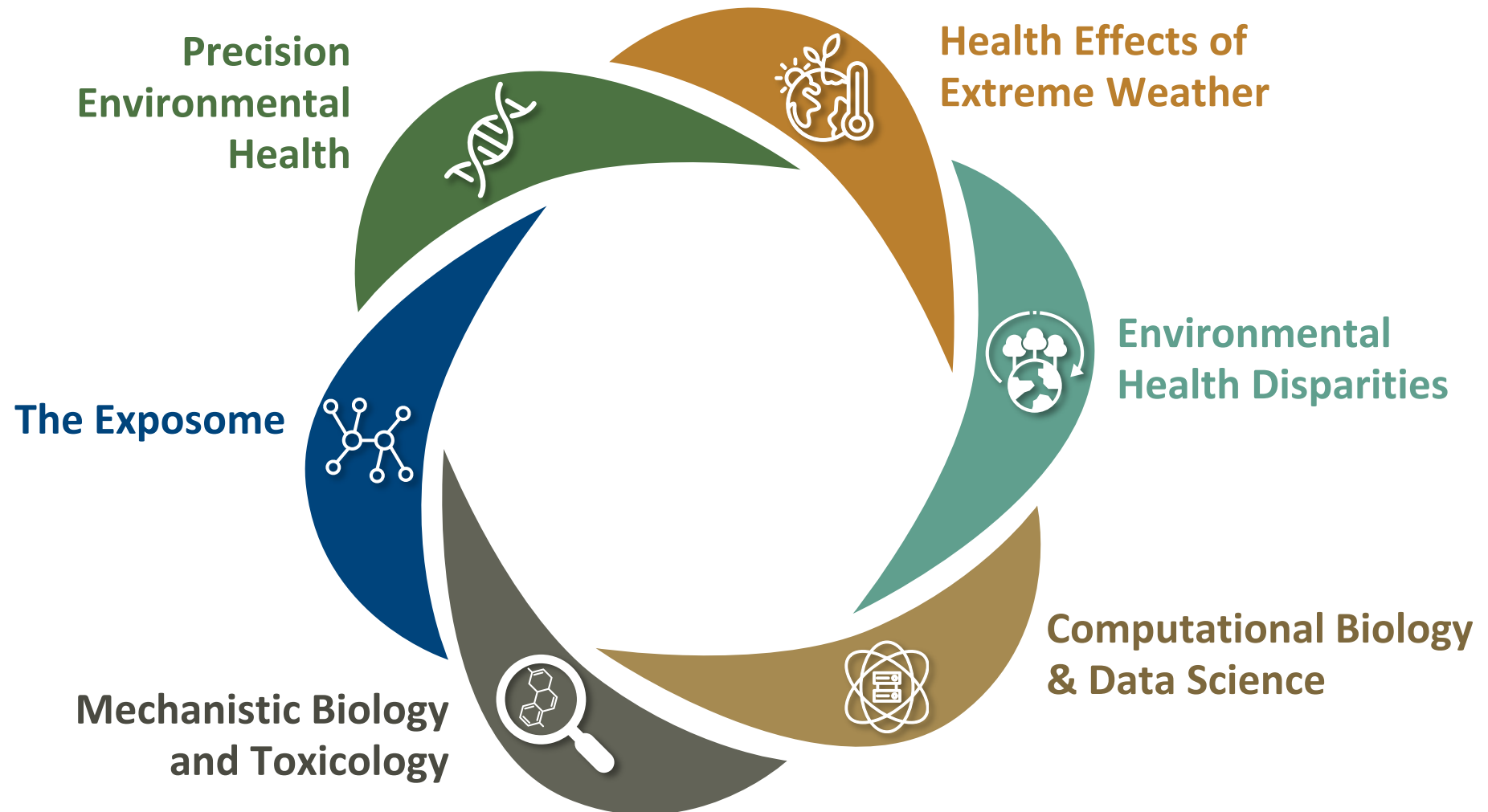
## NTP Staff Updates

- Nicole C. Kleinstreuer, Ph.D. was selected as the Acting NIH Deputy Director for Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI).
- Oversees trans-NIH programmatic research and strategic policy initiatives, including the NIH Common Fund and offices focused on women's health, data science, AIDS research, disease prevention, behavioral and social sciences, dietary supplements, and tribal health.
- She previously served as Director of the NICEATM and the Executive Director of the ICCVAM at NIEHS and NTP.

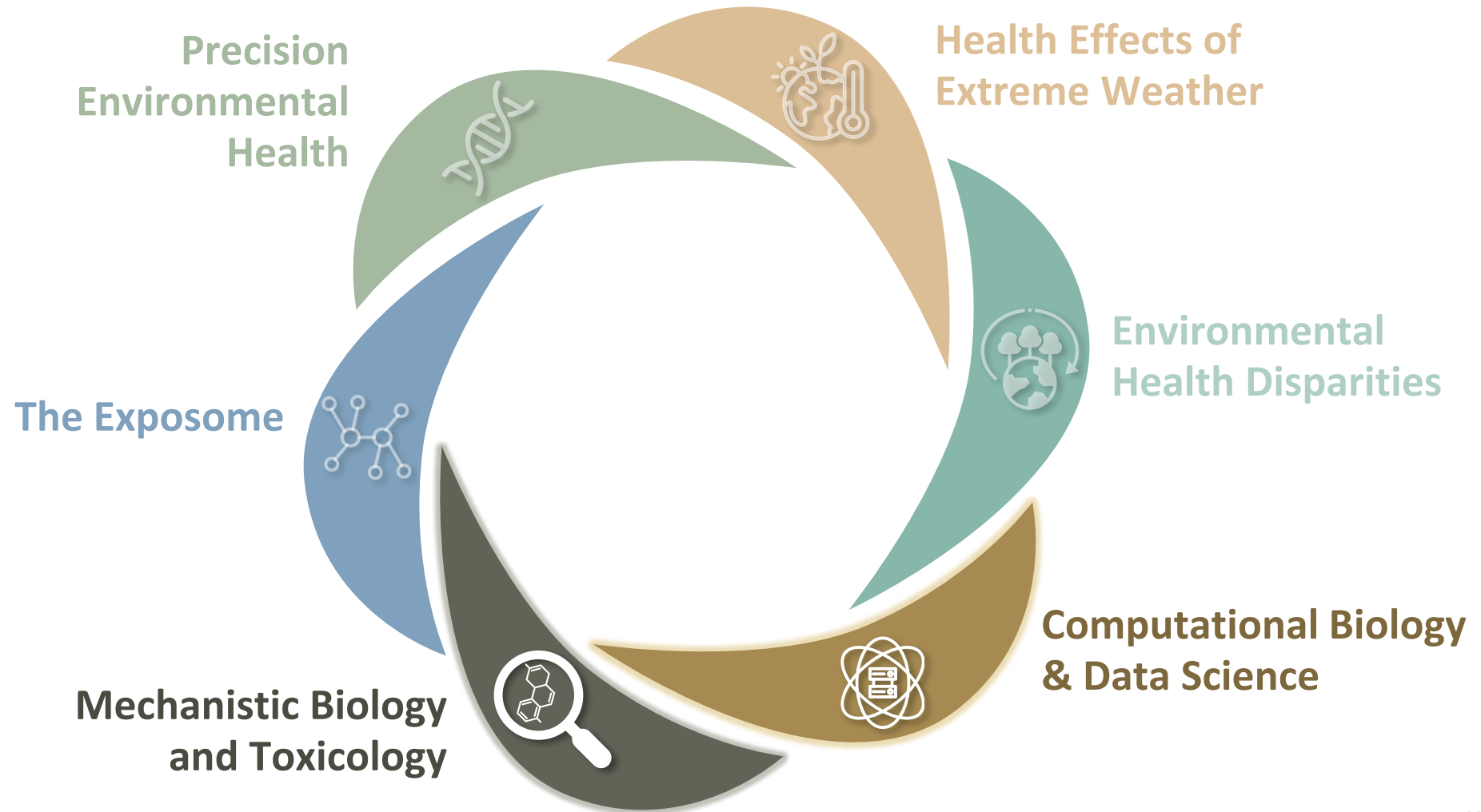


**Nicole C. Kleinstreuer, Ph.D.**  
**Acting DPCPSI Director**

## NIEHS Research Areas of Emphasis



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## ROA: Autism Data Science Initiative (ADSI)

- **4 Strategic Aims:**

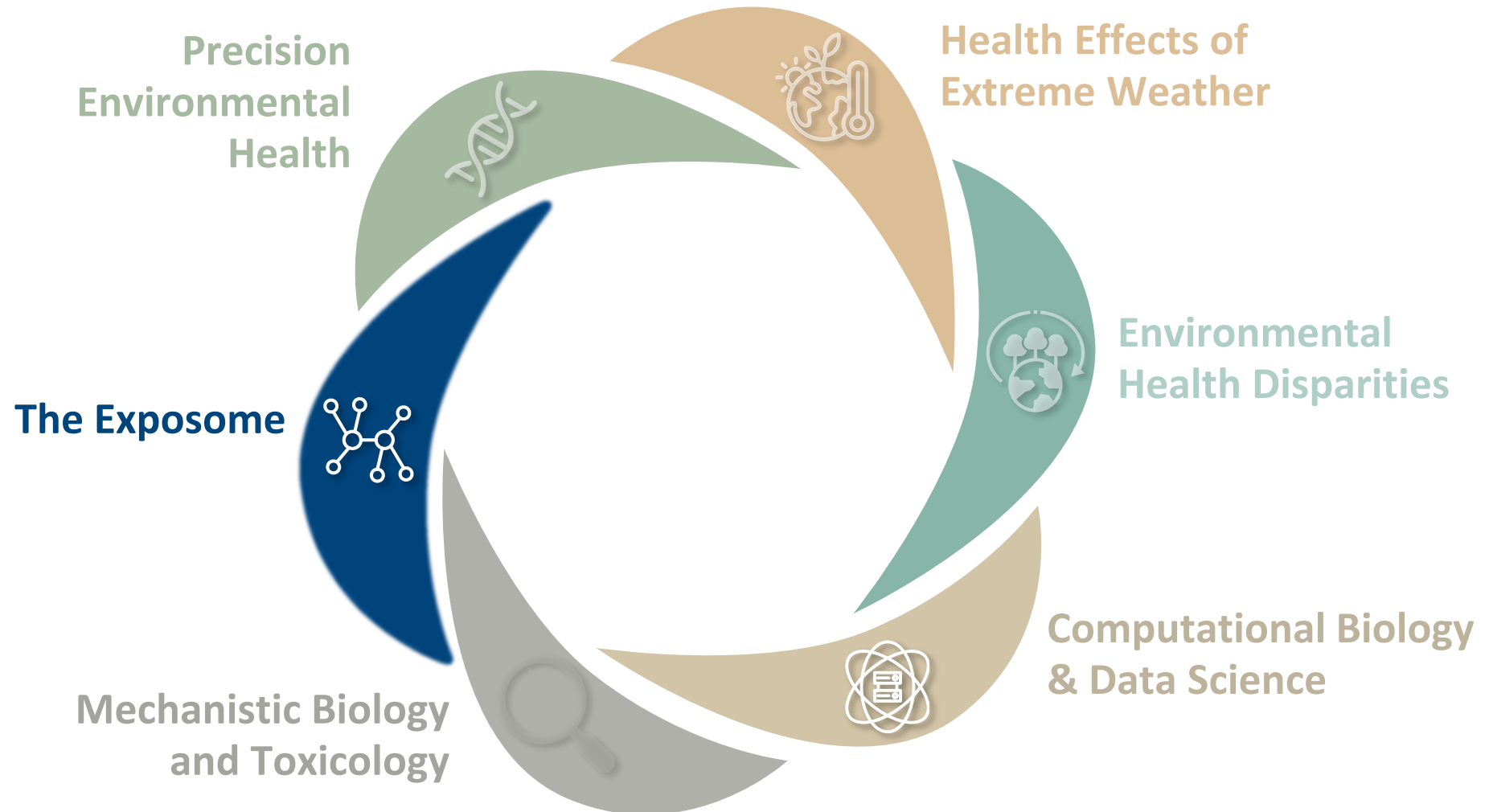
- Support the integration of existing data resources with rigorous privacy protections for analysis by autism researchers.
- Identify gaps in available data and conduct specific data generation activities to fill those gaps.
- Support analysis of the new data resources to explore the contribution of a variety of health and other factors to the causes of autism.
- Support independent replication and validation of the initiative's findings.

- **Funding: \$50,000,000 in FY25**

- Allocating up to \$5,000,000 total (direct + F&A) costs for up to 24-36 months per award (10-25 projects)
- This initiative will be run out of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI) in the NIH Office of the Director.

- **Application Due Date: June 27, 2025**

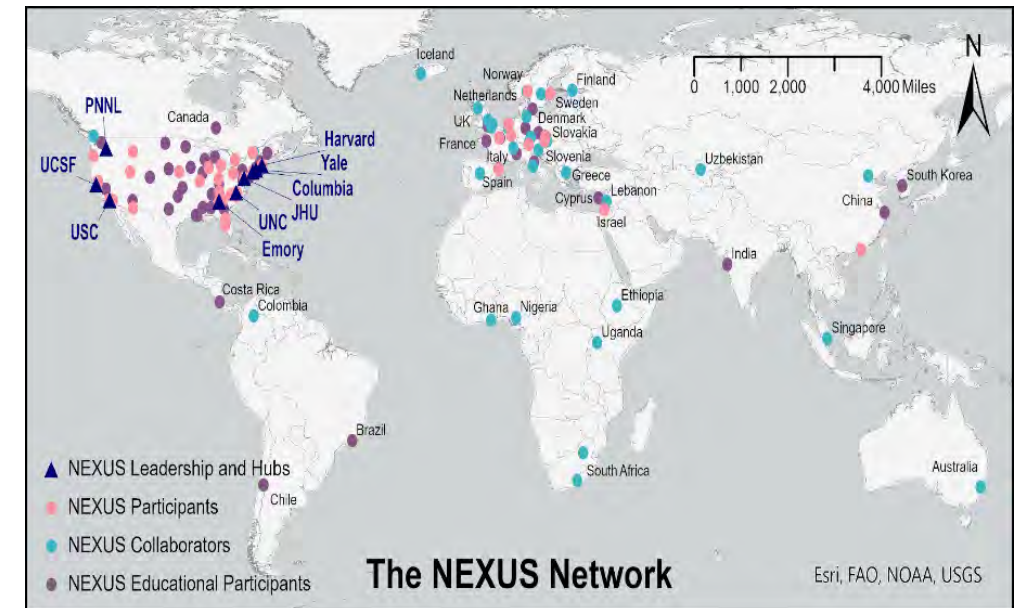
## NIEHS Research Areas of Emphasis



## NEXUS: Network for Exposomics in the U.S.

### *Center for Exposome Research Coordination (CERC)*

- **Awarded September 4, 2024**
  - Columbia, Harvard, and the University of Southern California
- **Overall Goal:**
  - **Build a Global Community of Practice for cooperation and collaboration in coordination with the European Human Exposome Network**
  - Develop a conceptual framework to address exposomics
  - Promote technologies/methods and data sharing
  - Capitalize on existing exposome research initiatives, infrastructures, and resources



## ***Integrating Exposomics into the Biomedical Enterprise*** **Banbury Center, December 3-6, 2023**



COLUMBIA  
UNIVERSITY

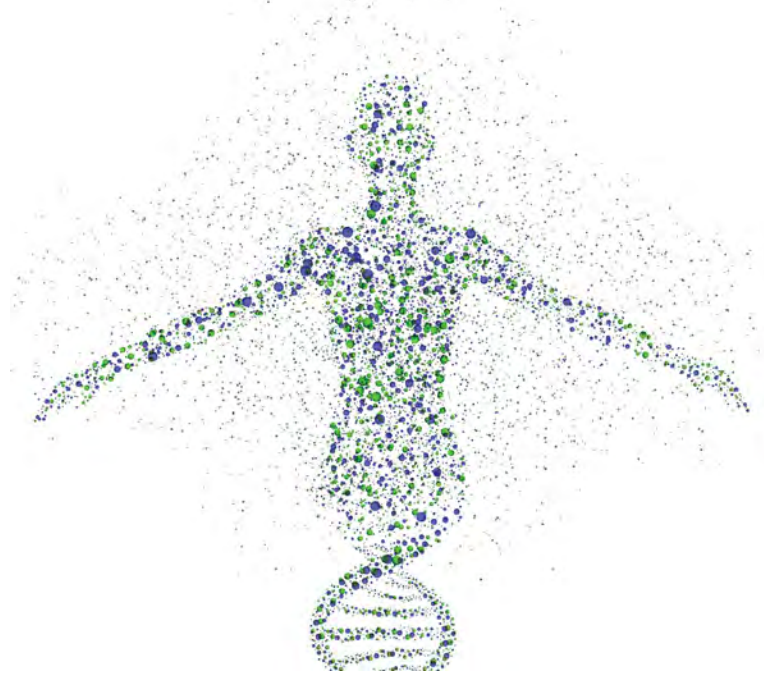


MBX Capital



***“Life exists at the interface of genetically encoded processes and environmentally driven realities.***

***So too should the biomedical enterprise that studies it.”***



Banbury Exposomics Consortium. Miller, GW, Bennett, ML, Balshaw D, Barouki R, Bhutani G, Dolinoy D, Gao P, Jett D, Karagas M, Klánová J, Lein P, Li S, Metz TO, Patel CJ, Pollitt K, Rajasekar A, Sillé F, Thessen A, Thuault-Restituto S, Vermeulen R, Ward-Caviness CK, Wright R. Integrating exposomics into biomedicine. **Science**. 388(6745):356-358, 2025. doi: 10.1126/science.adr0544. PMID: 40273259.



# EXP<sup>OSOME</sup> MOONSHOT FORUM

May 12-15, 2025, Washington, D.C.

**Aim:** gather stakeholders from government, industry, academia and the public to collaboratively translate the exposome from concept to utility

**Event Outputs:**

- Human Exposome Project Roadmap
- Creation of a public-private partnership
- Clearly outlined conceptual framework

# Establishment of a Global Consortium for the Human Exposome

- **Objectives:**

- Set the foundation for the Human Exposome Initiative
- Characterize exposures across the life course
- Develop technologies for exposure assessment
- Elucidate GxE mechanisms
- Translate exposome research into actionable strategies
- Strengthen human health



[exposomemoonshot.org](https://exposomemoonshot.org)





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*Thank you!*



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National Toxicology Program  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

