

# Girls' and Women's Health Research at the NIH



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# Research Across the NIH, and Across the Breadth of Girls' and Women's Lives

NIH supports a breadth of research affecting the lives of women and girls, including:

- Normal and abnormal development across the lifespan
- Reproductive health and pregnancy
- Women's health disparities

*For example. . .*



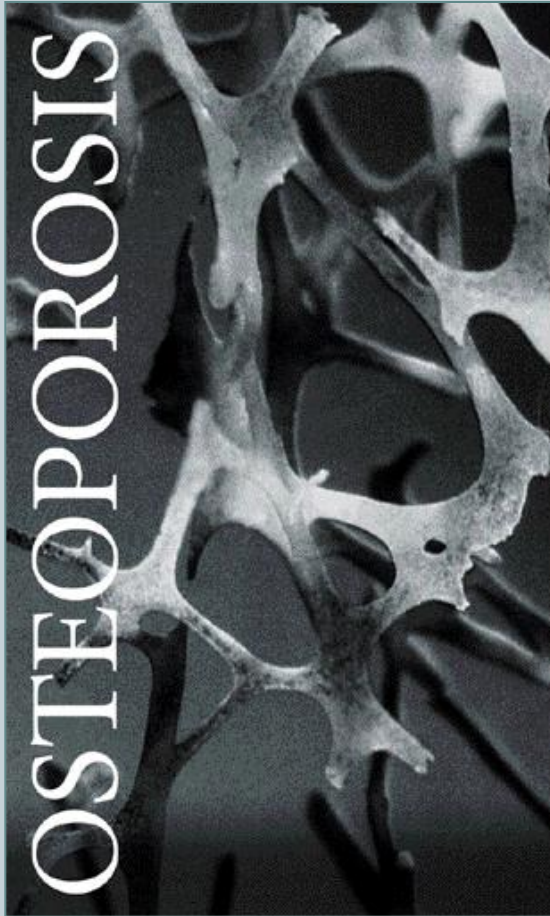
# Normal and Abnormal Development



- Environmental exposures that delay puberty in girls (NICHD)
- Weight loss for overweight girls cuts adult diabetes risk (NICHD, NCI, NIDDK)



# Normal and Abnormal Development



- Nutrition and fitness to promote bone health (NIAMS)

# Normal and Abnormal Development

## Human Microbiome Project



(NIH Common Fund)

- The initiative will use metagenomic analysis to characterize the complexity of microbial communities at individual body sites, and to determine whether there is a core microbiome at each site.
- The female urogenital tract is one of the first five body sites to be studied.

# Reproductive Health and Pregnancy



- Effective contraceptive options for all women (NICHD)
- Research to “repair” BRCA1 gene mutation, a cause of breast and ovarian cancers (NCI, NHLBI, NIDDK)

# Reproductive Health and Pregnancy

- Drugs to prevent postpartum hemorrhage in developing countries (NICHD & intl. partners)
- Research on microbicides to reduce HIV transmission (NIAID, NICHD, NIMH, ORWH)





# Women's Health Disparities

- Research on chronic pain conditions, including headache and vulvodynia



(NIDCR, NINDS, NICHD and others)

- Rapid antidepressant boosts brain's connections



(NIMH)



# Women's Health Disparities

- Educational campaign to raise awareness about the risks of heart disease, particularly among women of color (NHLBI)



# Conclusion



- Institutes and Centers across NIH are supporting a broad range of research and health communication efforts involving girls' and women's health.
- These activities are yielding significant gains in helping us better understand normal development and health, and to diagnose and treat many of the health problems that face women and girls today.
- Much is left to do and new approaches and tools should allow us to make even greater progress in improving the health and lives of girls and women. We look forward to working with you all to do so.

*Thank you!*

