

# National Institute of Mental Health Strategic Plan



# NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN

## **NIMH VISION**

NIMH envisions a world in which mental illnesses are prevented and cured.

## **NIMH MISSION**

The mission of NIMH is to transform the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses through basic and clinical research, paving the way for prevention, recovery and cure.

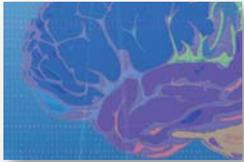
To inspire and support research that will continue to make a difference for those living with mental illness, and ultimately promote recovery, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) has developed a Strategic Plan to guide what has become an increasingly complex research effort. For the Institute to continue fulfilling this vital public health mission, it must foster innovative thinking and ensure that a full array of novel scientific perspectives are used to further discovery in the evolving science of brain, behavior, and experience. In this way, breakthroughs in science can become breakthroughs for all people with mental illnesses. This Plan seeks to bring into sharper focus the questions and perspectives that will transform the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders.

In support of this mission, NIMH will generate research and promote research training to fulfill the following four objectives:

### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1**

#### **Promote Discovery in the Brain and Behavioral Sciences to Fuel Research on the Causes of Mental Disorders**

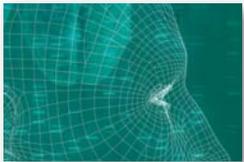
We will support basic, translational, and clinical research to gain a more complete understanding of the genetic, neurobiological, behavioral, environmental, and experiential factors that contribute to mental disorders.



### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2**

#### **Chart Mental Illness Trajectories to Determine When, Where, and How to Intervene**

We will chart the course of mental disorders over the lifespan in order to understand ideal times and methods for intervention to preempt or treat mental disorders, and hasten recovery.



### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3**

#### **Develop New and Better Interventions that Incorporate the Diverse Needs and Circumstances of People with Mental Illnesses**

We will improve existing approaches and devise new ones for the prevention, treatment, and cure of mental illness, allowing those who may suffer from these disorders to live full and productive lives.



### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4**

#### **Strengthen the Public Health Impact of NIMH-Supported Research**

Through research, evaluation, and collaboration, we will further develop the dissemination capacity of the Institute to help close the gap between the development of new, research-tested interventions and their widespread use by those most in need.



**For the complete Strategic Plan, please visit the NIMH website:**

**<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/strategic-planning-reports/index.shtml>**