

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Draft 2022–2027 Strategic Plan

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Request for comment.

SUMMARY: The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), National Institutes of Health (NIH) is requesting public comment on the draft 2022–2027 NIDCD Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan serves as a guide to the NIDCD in prioritizing its research investment and to address gaps in our research portfolio. The draft Plan presents a series of themes and goals that represent the most promising research needs within the NIDCD's mission areas of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language.

DATES: Comments will be accepted from May 2, 2022 through May 31, 2022.

ADDRESSES: The draft Plan is available for download at: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/about/strategic-plan/2022-2027/public-comment>. Comments must be submitted electronically via the web-based form at: <https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/about/strategic-plan/2022-2027/public-comment>. The web-based form accepts text but cannot accept attachments. You will receive an electronic confirmation acknowledging receipt of your response but will not receive individualized feedback from NIDCD on any comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Specific questions regarding the NIDCD draft Strategic Plan should be directed to: Laura K. Cole, Ph.D., Planning and Evaluation Officer, Science Policy and Planning Branch, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, NIH, 31 Center Drive, Suite 3C25, Bethesda, MD 20892. Phone: 301–402–2313. Email: NIDCDStrategicPlan@mail.nih.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is in accordance with the 21st Century Cures Act, wherein NIH institutes are required to regularly update their strategic plans. The NIDCD's mission is to support research and training on the normal and disordered processes of hearing, balance, taste, smell, voice, speech, and language. Our vision is to advance the science of communication to improve lives. To accomplish these goals, the NIDCD manages a broad portfolio of both basic, translational, and clinical research. The portfolio is organized into

three program areas: Hearing and balance; taste and smell; and voice, speech, and language. The three program areas seek to answer fundamental scientific questions about normal function and disorders and to identify patient-oriented scientific discoveries for preventing, screening, diagnosing, and treating disorders of human communication.

Responses to this request for comments are voluntary. Any personal identifiers (e.g., names, addresses, email addresses, etc.) will be removed when responses are compiled. Proprietary, classified, confidential, or sensitive information should not be included in your response. The Government reserves the right to use any non-proprietary technical information in any resultant solicitation(s).

This request for comment is for information and planning purposes only and should not be construed as a solicitation or as an obligation on the part of the Federal Government, or the NIH. The NIH does not intend to award a grant or contract to pay for the preparation of any information submitted or for the NIH's use of such information. No basis for claims against the NIH shall arise as a result of a response to this request for information or the NIH's use of such information as part of the NIDCD Strategic Plan.

The NIDCD anticipates that the finalized plan will be published on the NIDCD website in Fall 2022.

Dated: March 25, 2022.

Timothy J. Wheelles,
Executive Officer, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, National Institutes of Health.
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods; Notice of Public Webinar; Request for Public Input

AGENCY: National Institutes of Health, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Validation of Alternative Methods (ICCVAM) will hold a public forum to share information and facilitate direct communication of ideas and suggestions from stakeholders. Interested persons may participate via the web meeting

platform. Time will be set aside for questions and public statements on the topics discussed. Registration is required for both webinar viewing and oral statements. Information about the meeting and registration are available at <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/iccvamforum-2022>.

DATES:

Webinar: May 26–27, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to approximately 4:00 p.m. EDT both days.

Registration for Webinar: April 11, 2022, until 4:00 p.m. EDT May 27, 2022.

Registration for Oral Statements: April 11, 2022, until 4:00 p.m. EDT May 20, 2022.

Registration to view the webinar and present oral public statements is required.

ADDRESSES: Webinar web page: <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/go/iccvamforum-2022>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Nicole Kleinstreuer, Acting Director, NICEATM, email: nicole.kleinstreuer@nih.gov, telephone: (984) 287–3150.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background: ICCVAM, a congressionally mandated committee, promotes the development and validation of alternative testing strategies that protect human health and the environment while replacing, reducing, or refining animal use.

ICCVAM's goals include promotion of national and international partnerships between governmental and nongovernmental groups, including academia, industry, advocacy groups, and other key stakeholders. To foster these partnerships ICCVAM convenes an annual public forum to share information and facilitate direct communication of ideas and suggestions from stakeholders (79 FR 25136).

This year's meeting will be held on May 26 and 27, 2022. Due to restrictions on in-person gatherings amid ongoing public health concerns, the public forum will be presented via webinar only. NICEATM and ICCVAM members will give presentations on member agencies' current activities related to the development and validation of alternative test methods and approaches.

There will be opportunities for registered participants to ask clarifying or follow-up questions of the ICCVAM members about their presentations during the meeting. Instructions for submitting these questions will be provided via email prior to the webinar. The agenda will also include time for public oral statements relevant to the ICCVAM mission and current activities