

Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch

The Basic Biobehavioral and Psychological Sciences Branch supports experimental studies involving humans or animals and observational and clinical studies that broaden our knowledge of cognitive, affective, perceptual, and sensory processes related to cancer etiology, prevention, screening, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship.

Values and Principles

Lived experience and social identity shape how knowledge is generated, interpreted, and translated for public health good, thus BBPSB:

- Strives to ensure that fundamental knowledge arising from our portfolio has the potential to reduce the burden of cancer.
- Prioritizes studies that engage individuals and segments of the US population that have been typically underrepresented, underserved, and excluded from biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences research.
- Acts on our scientific and ethical imperative to nurture and sustain a diverse pool of talented researchers engaged in biobehavioral and psychological science research that informs cancer prevention and control.

Learn more about BBPSB: cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/bbpsb

Highlighted Research Domains and Funding Opportunities



Cancer and Aging

Understanding the Effects of Cancer and Cancer Treatment on Aging Trajectories and Aging Outcomes

NOT-CA-21-031

Research Infrastructure Development for Interdisciplinary Aging Studies, Notice of NCI's Participation

NOT-CA-22-002



Affective Science

Fundamental Mechanisms of Affective and Decisional Processes in Cancer Control

PAR-20-034 (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)



Cancer-Related Cognitive Impairment

Leveraging Cognitive Neuroscience to Improve Assessment of Cancer Treatment-Related Cognitive Impairment

PAR-19-340 (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

PAR-19-339 (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)



Perception and Cognition

Perception and Cognition Research to Inform Cancer Image Interpretation

PAR-19-387 (R01 Clinical Trial Optional)

PAR-19-389 (R21 Clinical Trial Optional)



Treatment Adherence

Research on Oral Anticancer Agents in the Contexts of Utilization, Adherence, and Health Care Delivery

NOT-CA-20-026

Improving Patient Adherence to Treatment and Prevention Regimens to Promote Health

NOT-OD-21-100



Dyadic Processes

Dyadic Interpersonal Processes and Biopsychosocial Outcomes

PAR-21-280 (R01 - Basic Experimental Studies with Humans)

PAR-21-281 (R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)



Integrative Scientific Processes

Mid-Career Enhancement Awards to Integrate Basic Behavioral, Biomedical, and/or Social Scientific Processes

PAR-20-226 (K18 Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)

PAR-20-211 (K18 No Independent Clinical Trials)



Social Connectedness and Isolation

Research on Biopsychosocial Factors of Social Connectedness and Isolation on Health, Wellbeing, Illness, and Recovery

PAR-21-144 (R01 - Basic Experimental Studies with Humans Required)

PAR-21-145 (R01 Clinical Trials Not Allowed)



Neural Regulation

Neural Regulation of Cancer

PAR-19-353 (R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

PAR-19-354 (R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed)

Find a complete list of BRP funding opportunities at cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brpfunding.

View sample grant applications at cancercontrol.cancer.gov/samplegrants.

Learn about our BBPSB-funded grantees at cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brpgrantees.

Initiatives

Interdisciplinary Research on Cancer and Aging P30 Supplements

NCI provided supplemental funding to NCI-designated Cancer Centers to support the development of a sustainable interdisciplinary research infrastructure to address critical cancer and aging research questions or catchment area needs. Learn more about this initiative:

<https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/research-emphasis/supplement/cancer-and-aging>.

Communication and Decision-Making for Individuals with an Inherited Susceptibility to Cancer

Individuals with an inherited susceptibility to cancer face the challenging task of understanding their risk of disease and applying this understanding to decisions involving risk management and disclosure of genetic information to family members. The aim of this initiative is to advance research to improve cancer risk communication between these affected individuals (and their families) and providers to enable them to make better informed clinical risk management decisions. Learn more about this initiative: <https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/bbpsb/communication-decision-making>.

Networks

Interoception Research Network

A network of scientists convened by NCI to exchange expertise on the basic mechanisms of interoception and explore the relevance of interoception to aspects of cancer control, including the role of hunger and satiation perception in obesity; perceptual experiences of cancer treatment-related symptoms; and adherence to treatment and follow-up care.

CRCI and Cognitive Neuroscience Network

A network of cognitive scientists, neuropsychologists, clinical oncologists, and related disciplines convened by NCI to encourage collaboration and expand interest in cancer-related cognitive impairment (CRCI) research.

Webinar Series

Perspectives on Cancer and Aging



This series honors the legacy of Dr. Arti Hurria, a pioneer in the fields of geriatrics and oncology. It serves as a platform to cultivate a community of researchers and broadly disseminate advances in cancer and aging research.

Learn more about this webinar series:

<https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/cancer-and-aging>.

Achieving Equity in Cancer Pain Management



This series takes a multilevel perspective to examine the factors that individually and jointly affect disparities in the quality and outcomes of cancer pain management, and it considers approaches to reduce the unequal burden of suffering.

Learn more about this webinar series:

<https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/brp/bbpsb/multimorbidity>.

BBPSB Team



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[Tanya Agurs-Collins, Ph.D., R.D.](#) and [Nicole Senft Everson, Ph.D.](#) have a secondary appointment in the branch.

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January 2022