



## The FNIH: 15 AND FORWARD

This summer, the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) celebrates its 15<sup>th</sup> year in operation. The record of the past 15 years has confirmed the Foundation as a national leader in the creation of specially-configured, high-impact medical research collaborations. Established as a non-profit corporation in 1996, uniquely authorized by the United States Congress, the FNIH serves as a catalyst for public-private partnerships and supports the mission of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). By raising private sector funds to stimulate and facilitate the formation of public-private partnerships, the FNIH is focused on supporting life-saving medical research priorities at all 27 institutes and centers at the NIH. Over the past 15 years the FNIH promise has remained the same: to not only to create partnerships that advance scientific discovery, but to do so efficiently and effectively.

Many things have contributed to the Foundation's 15 years of success. Operating outside of the federal agency we serve, the FNIH holds a special place in the nation's medical research enterprise where we can be more flexible and bring together diverse collaborators to share resources, knowledge and talent. Some research initiatives, by virtue of their need for speed and immediate resources, their complexity, and their scale, are beyond the capacity of any single sector, much less any single institution, to undertake. The Foundation's distinctive role affords an unparalleled interaction with key personnel at the NIH and at the same time, the entrepreneurial mandate to involve resources and expertise from a broad range of public and private entities including foreign partners, patient groups, academia, philanthropic institutions, government and industry. The Foundation ensures not only that all partners benefit substantially, but that the public does as well — through the rapid and cost-effective achievement of scientific and medical breakthroughs. Together, the FNIH accomplishes what no one entity can do alone.

The FNIH is proud of its role in supporting programs whose innovative methods, tools, and procedures are setting the standard in research and training, and serving as a model for others to follow. The Foundation's 15 year portfolio boasts some of our most innovative and successful initiatives, spanning areas from global health, translational medicine, comparative effectiveness research, and research training and education. The Foundation's ability to devise innovative public-private partnerships allows researchers to combine and streamline efforts and resources, thereby reducing the enormous costs and time associated with complex, cutting-edge research. One such program is the Foundation's newly launched [I-SPY 2 trial](#). By targeting breast cancer treatments to the biological profile of individual tumors, researchers hope to refine the clinical trial process and eliminate ineffective treatments. The FNIH [Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership](#), as another example, has pooled the expertise, funding, databases and technology of more than 100 collaborators to improve drug safety. The [Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative](#), which has become a paradigm for the way complex research is conducted through public-private partnerships, has attracted more than \$22 million in new private funding for its second phase—[ADNI 2](#). The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation continues to endorse the

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Foundation's expertise, funding new [global health projects](#) including [HIT-TB](#)—an effort employing high-throughput screening to identify bacterial targets for developing new drugs to combat tuberculosis.

The FNIH has also recognized that nontraditional partners from other sectors such as food, consumer goods and services industries, as well as information technology have important, common interests in advancing human health. One initiative in that direction is the Foundation's partnership with [Diet Coke®](#) to raise funds and awareness in support of women's heart health education and research. The FNIH is also applying a fresh perspective to its existing programs, allowing for improvements to even the most successful initiatives. For example, the [FNIH mHealth Summit](#) tripled in attendance in 2010, paving the way for new partnerships, opportunities and potential for using mobile technologies to improve global health.

The Foundation's financial statements clearly demonstrate a consistent history of sound management and accountability. In 2011, for the fifth consecutive year, Charity Navigator awarded the respected 4-star rating to the FNIH which recognizes the Foundation for exceeding industry standards and outperforming most charities in its cause. Additionally and importantly, the thoughtful and generous gifts from the Foundation's donors are what help continue to make the FNIH successful. The donations sustain the Foundation's capacity to form and foster the public-private partnerships that make life-saving medical research initiatives possible. The fifth anniversary of the [Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge](#), on the NIH campus in 2010, served as a luminous testament to the importance of these donor constituencies.

As the FNIH celebrates its 15th year of operation, the Foundation strives to build on its proven record of efficiency and effectiveness to sharpen its alignment with the NIH priorities. Utilizing the full range of the Foundation's organizational skill set—from identifying unmet research goals through partner and fund development, to program design, management and oversight—the FNIH has taken a leadership role in some of the most important initiatives undertaken by the NIH. As such, the FNIH has become a vital asset to the NIH, not only by raising more than \$560 million in support of more than 400 projects to date, but by creating a neutral environment in which the public and private sectors can meet and collaborate. By judiciously leveraging the expertise, resources and funding of the NIH and many other individuals and institutes, the FNIH continues to earn the trust and confidence of its partners, donors, and the public as a whole.

As the FNIH moves from 15 and forward, we will continue to reach out to new constituencies, engaging broader populations in the exciting work of scientific discovery to prevent, detect, treat and cure disease. The Foundation's emphasis will continue to be focused on creating high-need, high-impact and innovative collaborations, complementing and amplifying the mission of the NIH, to the greatest extent possible. After more than a decade and a half, the FNIH is confident and poised for even greater and more rapid progress as *Partners for Innovation, Discovery, Life*.

Thank you for your support over the past 15 years, and your support moving forward.

*Interested in learning more about the Foundation and how you can take action to help move medical research forward? [Click here >>](#)*