

# NIH HEAL INITIATIVE

## NIH HEAL Multi-Disciplinary Working Group

August 31, 2020





### **Welcome and Introductions**



#### NIH HEAL INITIATIVE

## Overview of Current Portfolio

August 31, 2020

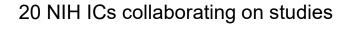
Rebecca Baker, Director, NIH HEAL Initiative



# By the Numbers: \$500 million/year Sustained Research Investment

## 25+ HEAL Research Programs





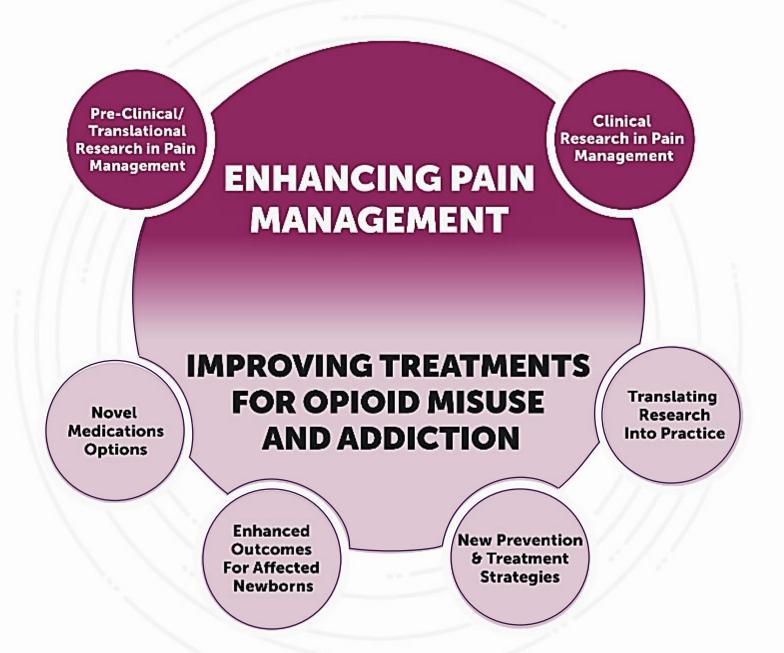
Trans-NIH governance structure

Partnerships across government, communities, and the private sector

Prevention – Basic & Translational Research – Clinical Trials – Implementation Science



### **NIH HEAL** INITIATIVE RESEARCH OVERIVEW



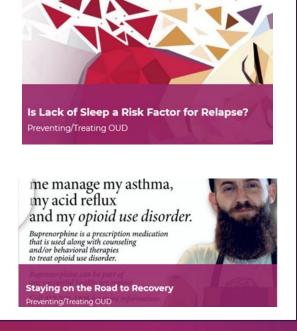












## Research Spotlights





# Pre-Clinical and Translational Research in Pain Management

- Discovery and validation of novel targets for safe and effective pain treatment
  - o 3 publications in basic and translational research area
- Translating discoveries into effective devices for pain treatment
- Optimizing non-addictive therapies to treat pain
  - Fast tracked FDA decision for new pain candidate
- Engineering preclinical screening platforms
- Biomarkers, signatures and endpoints for pain



# Clinical Research in Pain Management

- Early Phase Pain Investigation Pain Network
- Back Pain Consortium Research Program
  - Dynamic back pain model
  - Predictive models for individualized responses to multimodal interventions
- Pain Management Effectiveness Research Network
- Pragmatic and Implementation Studies for the Management of Pain (PRISM)
  - o Partner with CMS on effectiveness of acupuncture for low back pain
- Integrated Approach to Pain and Opioid Use in Hemodialysis Patients









# New Prevention & Treatment Strategies for Opioid Use Disorder

- Preventing OUD among at risk adolescents
  - 9 projects focused on vulnerable populations (e.g. homeless youth and American Indian/Alaskan Natives)
- Optimizing care for people with OUD and common mental disorders
- Managing opioid misuse and low severity OUD
- Understanding the role of sleep dysfunction
- Determining the optimal length of medication treatment

## **Translation of Research into Practice for Effective Treatments for OUD**

- Integrating multiple evidence-based interventions: HEALing Communities Study
- Enhancing the NIDA Clinical Trials Network to address opioids
- Promoting innovation in the criminal justice system (JCOIN)
  - 13 research studies across 21 states; >40K justice-involved youth
  - COVID-19 guidelines developed and distributed
- Understanding the role of behavioral health interventions (BRIM)





## Novel Medication Options for Opioid Addiction and Overdose

- Increase effective medication options:
  - Enhanced formulations; addressing craving and withdrawal; novel targets for addiction and overdose
  - 8 HEAL-funding projects obtained IND
- Immune-based therapies for heroin and fentanyl
  - Consortium established



## **Enhanced Outcomes for Affected Newborns**

- Advancing Clinical Trials in Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome: ACT NOW Study
  - Completed site selection across 20 states.
    - Clinical trials to begin early September 2020
    - Longitudinal Study launched Aug 5
- Understanding the long-term consequences of early opioid exposure: HEALthy BCD Study

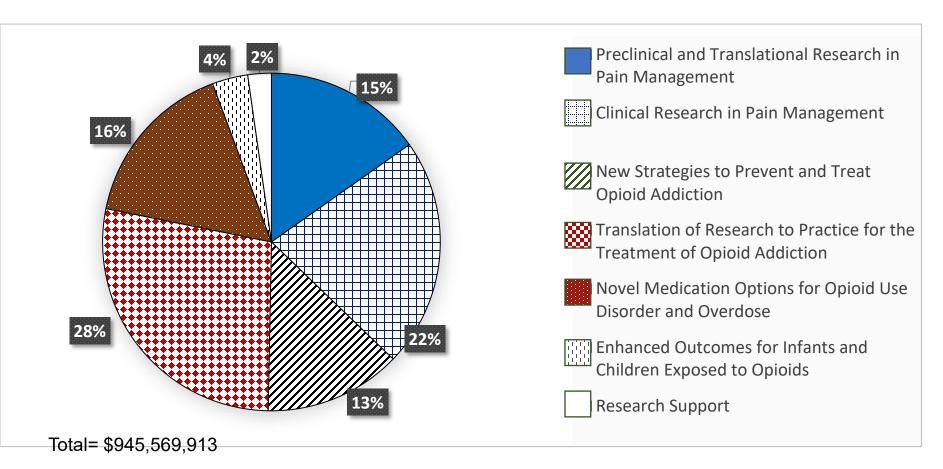






# Investment in Pain and Addiction Research 5-year Budget Summary

## Existing HEAL Investment by Research Focus Area (FY2019 Obligations)





### Addressing Gaps in Research: Selected **Examples of FY20 Investments**



Understanding the Relationship Between Pain and Opioid Use Disorder

- Pain Management in the Setting of Opioid Use
- Strategies to Reduce Stigma in Pain Management and Addiction Treatment
- •Workshop: Interventions for Managing Comorbid Chronic Pain & OUD



Addressing OUD and Co-occurring Mental Health Conditions

- Social Network Analyses to Reduce AI/AN OUD and Related Risk for Suicide
- Research to Manage Common Co-occurring Conditions
- Research Networks for the Study of Recovery Support Services for **Persons Treated** with Medications for OUD



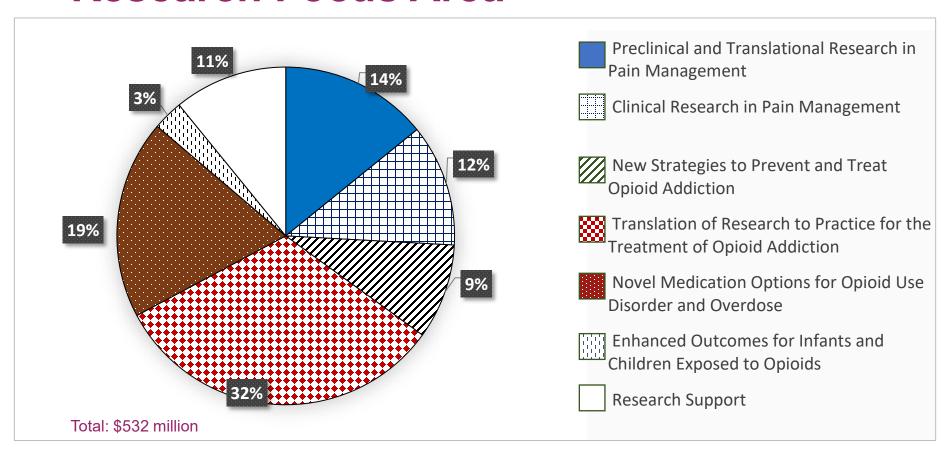
Understanding Diversity of Care Received Across Health Settings Best Management of Specific Pain Conditions in Primary Care. Hospital, Dental, or Emergency Settings

•Workshop: **Navigating** Pediatric to Adult Health Care Transition



- Enhance Workforce Diversity
- Training Supplements for HEAL Network Clinical Trials
- ·Workshop: Research Priorities for Addressing Social and Economic Determinants of **Opioid Related Health Disparities**

## Planned FY20 Obligation by HEAL Research Focus Area



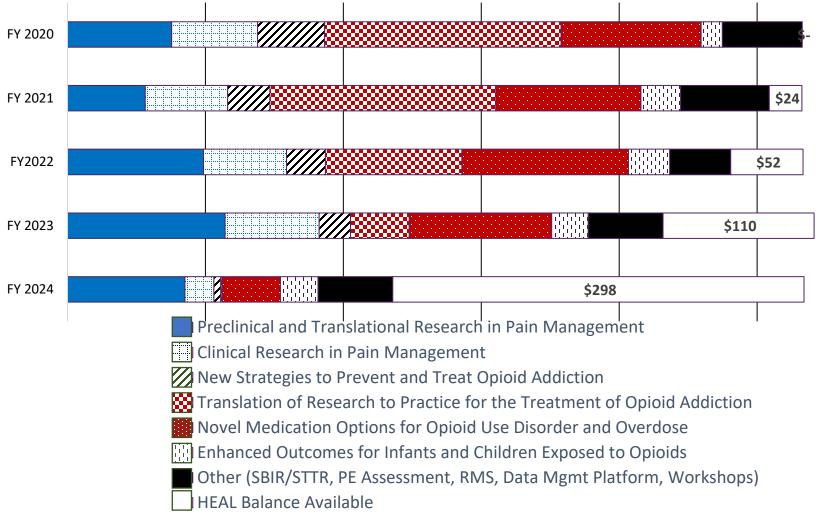


# HEAL Concepts Moving Forward in FY2021

- \*Concept 1: A Coordinated Suite of Funding Opportunities Supporting Early-Phase Therapeutic Development for Pain
- Concept 3: HEAL Studies to Enhance Phenotyping of Study Participants with Chronic Overlapping Pain Conditions
- Concept 4: Managing comorbid chronic pain and OUD
- Concept 6: Optimizing multi-component service delivery interventions for people with opioid use disorder, co-occurring conditions, and/or suicide risk
- Concept 8: HEALthy Brain and Child Development Study
- Concept 9: Comparative-effectiveness trial for the pharmacological treatment of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome
- Concept 10: Fast-track the discovery and development of medications to treat opioid use disorders



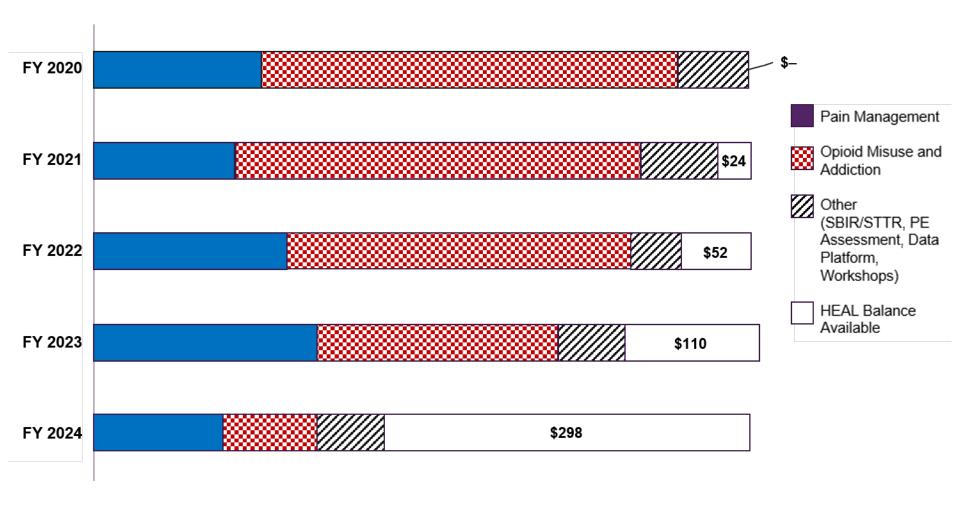
#### **HEAL** Initiative Budget: Future Funding Framework



Available funds to be divided evenly between pain and addiction focused research



#### **HEAL Initiative Budget: Future Funding Framework**







### **Future Opportunities**

### **FY 2020 HEAL Workshops**

Interventions for Managing Comorbid Chronic Pain & OUD/Physical Dependence	June 1-2, 2020
Towards the Use of Buprenorphine in Infants: Scientific and Practical Considerations	August 24-25, 2020
Research Priorities for Addressing Social and Economic Determinants of Opioid-Related Health Disparities- Expert Panel Workshop and Planning Meeting	September 9, 2020
Workshop on the structural and dynamic imaging of myofascial tissues: potential impact on musculoskeletal pain research	September 16-17, 2020
Navigating pediatric to adult health care: Lost in health care transition	September 30-October 1, 2020
Developing meaningful endpoints for pain clinical trials	October 8 & October 15, 2020
Target Validation for Non-Addictive Therapeutics Development for Pain - Strategic Approaches and Best Practices	October 21, 2020

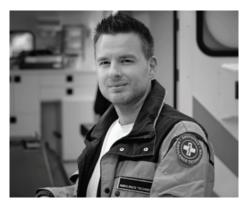


# MDWG Topics of Interest

- Impact of COVID 19
- Ongoing budget outlook
- Special Populations
- Individuals with OUD and Mental Health Conditions
- Older Adolescents and Young Adults
- Justice Involved Individuals
- Infants and Children with NOWS





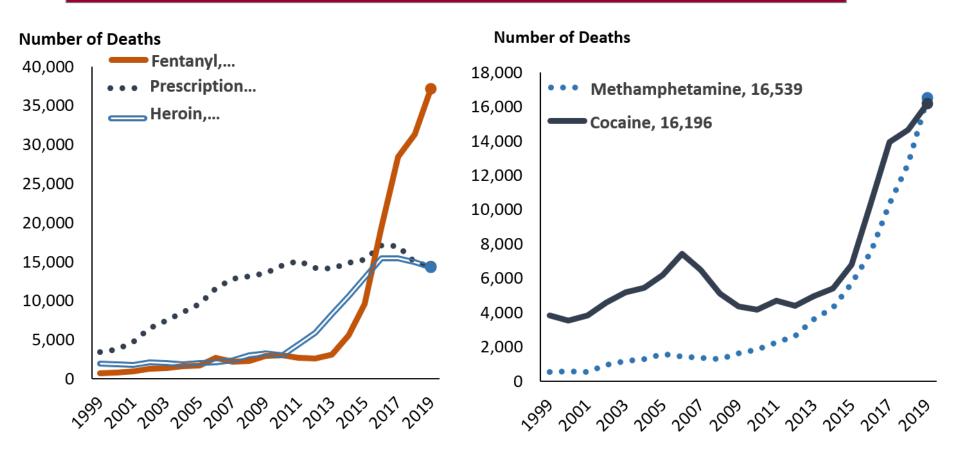




#### Emerging Issues in the Opioid Crisis: Collision of COVID-19 on Opioid Overdose and Treatment

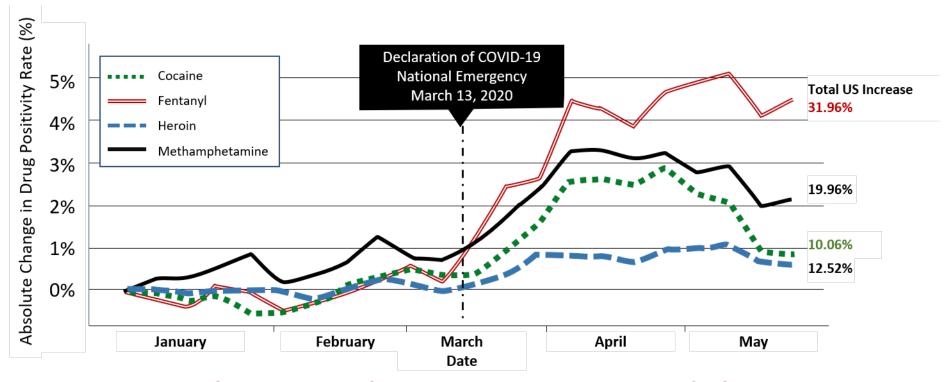
Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse

#### Overdose Deaths in 2019 Increased by 4.6%





#### **Drug Use Increase During COVID**



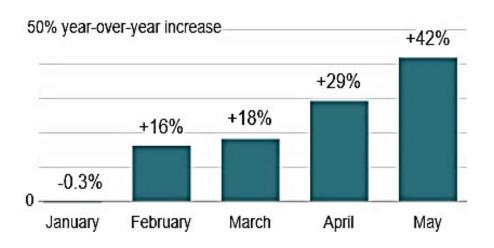
Total Study Population Change in Unadjusted Positivity Rate for Cocaine, Fentanyl, Heroin and Methamphetamine

Millennium Health Signals Report™ COVID-19 Special Edition: Significant Changes in Drug Use During the Pandemic Volume 2.1 | Published July 2020



#### **Overdoses Grew Dramatically During COVID Pandemic**

Overdoses increased up to 42% per month during the pandemic, as compared to the same months in 2019.



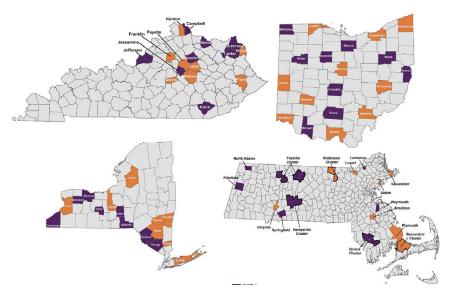
Note: Percent growth references the 1,201 agencies reporting to ODMAP by January



ALYSSA FOWERS/THE WASHINGTON POST

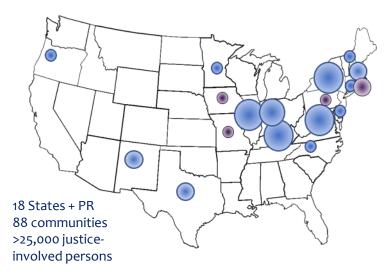


#### **HEALing Communities Study**



- Has the rate of overdoses changed?
- Impact on treatment initiation and retention
- Impact on drug access in the community
- Challenges to providers and first responders
- Challenges to those with SUD

#### Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network

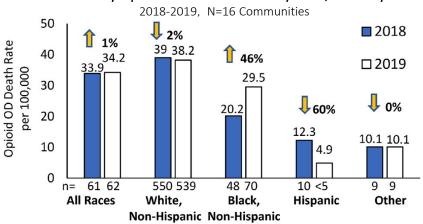


- Compiled >120 guidelines/resources for justice systems responding to COVID-19
- Advisory group to provide real-time information to NIDA COVID-19 impact in justice settings



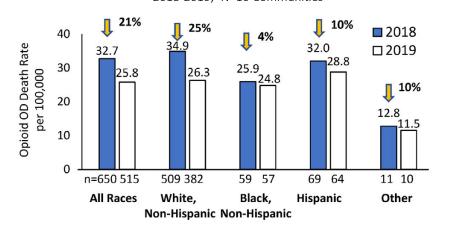
#### **Overdose Deaths in HEALing Communities States**

#### Kentucky Opioid Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity:



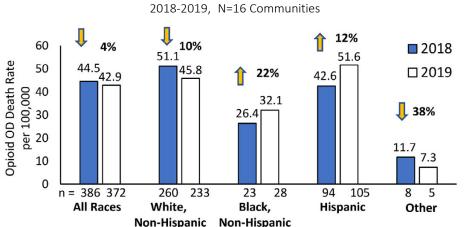
Source: KY Drug Overdose Fatality Surveillance System. Data as of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020. Counts less than 5 suppressed by state data reporting policy. Produced by the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center, University of Kentucky.

#### New York Opioid Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity: 2018-2019, N=16 Communities



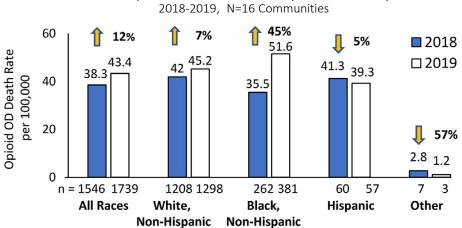
Data and analysis provided by New York State Department of Health July 27, 2020

#### Massachusetts Opioid Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity:



Source: MA Registry of Vital Records and Statistics

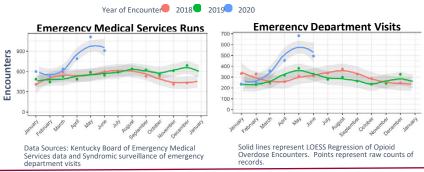
#### Ohio Opioid Overdose Deaths by Race/Ethnicity:



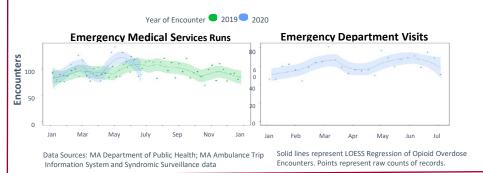
Source: OH Vital Records and Statistics (excludes small number of decedents missing race/ethnicity)

#### **Overdose Encounters in HEALing Communities States**

#### Kentucky HCS Opioid Overdose-related Encounters: 2018-2020, N=16 Communities

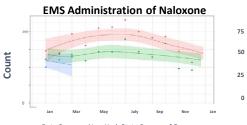


#### Massachusetts HCS Opioid Overdose-related Encounters: 2019-2020, N=16 Communities

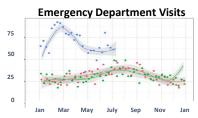


#### New York HCS Opioid Overdose-related Encounters: 2018-2020. N=16 Communities

Year of Encounter 2018 2019 2020



Data Sources: New York State Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems and Syndromic Surveillance of emergency department visits



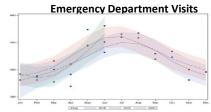
Solid lines represent LOESS Regression of Opioid Overdose Encounters Points represent raw counts of records.

#### Ohio HCS Opioid Overdose-related Encounters: 2018-2020. N=19 Communities

Year of Encounter 2018 2019 2020



Data Sources: Ohio syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits



Solid lines represent LOESS Regression of Opioid Overdose\
Encounters. Points represent raw counts of records.

#### **COVID & The Justice System**

- People in jails & prisons are particularly vulnerable to COVID
- Some of the largest outbreaks in U.S. have been in jails or prisons
  - As of August 4th: > 86,000 cases
  - Outbreaks in jails and prisons can spread to the community
- Testing has been limited in prisons and jails (when available infection rates tend to be high; up to 98%).
- Rapid push to reduce incarcerated populations reduced census in jail & prison
  - Limited the ability to connect to community support services (housing, mental health, MOUD)
- Prisoners have limited access to MH and SUD services
  - Telehealth services are being adopted in some jails/prisons

Sources: https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/16/us/coronavirus-inmates-prisons-jails.html; https://www.vera.org/publications/covid19-jail-population-decline https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/05/01/a-state-by-state-look-at-coronavirus-in-prisons; https://www.vera.org/projects/covid-19-criminal-justice-responses/covid-19-data; https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/07/16/prison-populations-drop-by-100-000-during-pandemic; https://www.themarshallproject.org/2020/06/01/what-covid-19-prison-outbreaks-could-teach-us-about-herd-immunity



#### Coronavirus Cases Rise Sharply in Prisons Even as They Plateau Nationwide

Prison officials have been reluctant to do widespread virus testing even as infection rates are escalating.





#### **Discussion**

- How can collaboratives such as the JCOIN and HEALing Communities
   Study be assets during changing landscape of COVID?
- How can the HEAL Initiative best respond to the changing landscape of drug use during COVID?
- How are other aspects of HEAL affected by COVID and related aspects of the pandemic?



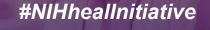


## Realignment of the Analgesic Development Program

Walter Koroshetz, MD Director, NINDS

**HEAL Multidisciplinary Working Group; Aug. 31, 2020** 





NIH National Institutes of Health

NIH HEAL Initiative and Helping to End Addiction Long-term are service marks of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



# Bridging Gaps in the analgesic development pipeline

#### **❖ Academics and Small Biotechs:**

- Excellent ideas with good scientific premise
- Disease biology expertise

#### but often lack:

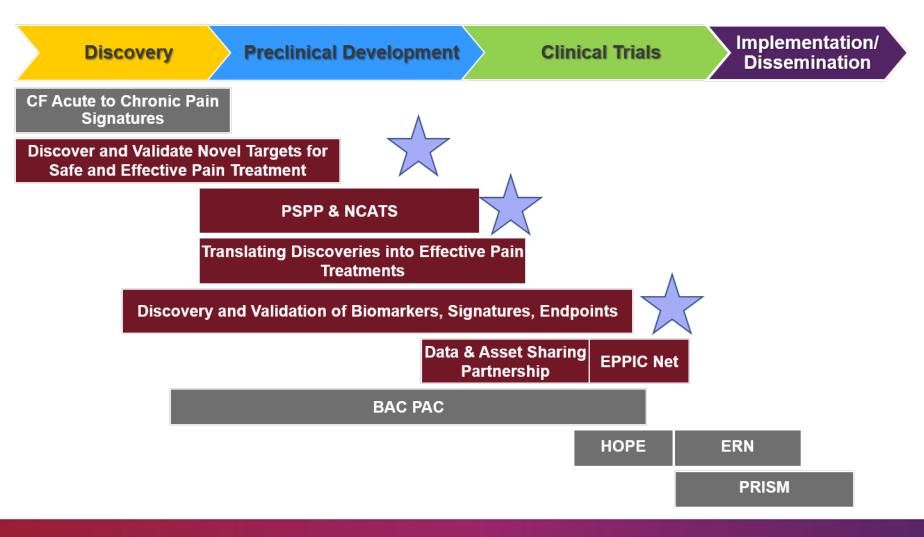
- Resources to advance their ideas
- Complete preliminary data packages
- Screening assays and chemical starting points
- Models for future testing

#### **Realigned HEAL program will:**

- Provide specialized drug discovery and development planning and expertise
- Provide access to drug discovery infrastructure and testing to advance to clinic
- Preserve investigators' IP
- Combine the strengths of NIH and industry expertise for drug discovery



#### **Current HEAL Programs for Enhancing Pain Management**





### **Current HEAL Programs:**

## Discover and Validate Novel Targets for Safe and Effective Pain Treatment

Basic biology target discovery projects

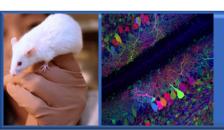


Pain target validation

**Previously identified targets** 

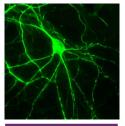
- novel targets for small molecules, natural products, biologics, devices
- discovery of new stimulation or circuit
- CNS or PNS

- In vitro/ex vivo assays
- Animal model development
- validation; robustness; reproducibility, pharmacodynamic and predictive biomarkers

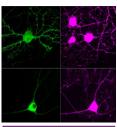


**Enhancing Pain Management** 

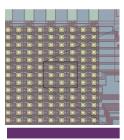
### **Current HEAL Programs:** Human Cell-based Screening Platforms



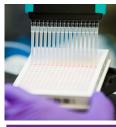
Access to human cell types



Advanced imaging technologies for functional methods cell characterization



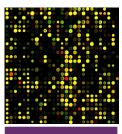
Electrophysiology



Measurement of signaling pathways, metabolism



Longitudinal tracking of cell behavior



Combined single-cell transcriptomic & proteomic analyses



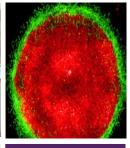
Tissue engineering technologies



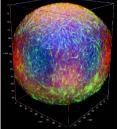
Automated production of iPS cell-derived cells



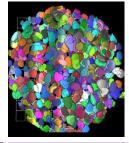
3D bioprinters



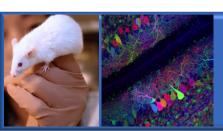
Spatially defined and physiologically relevant tissue models



Validation of 3D organoid cultures



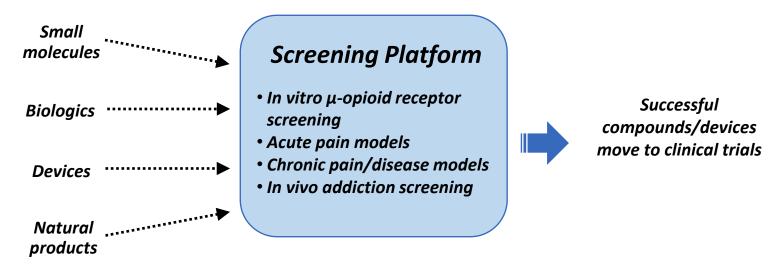
Assays using 3D tissue models

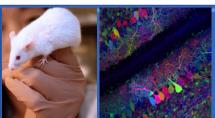


### **Enhancing Pain Management**

# Current HEAL Programs: Preclinical Screening Platform for Pain (PSPP)

- Promote testing and characterization of non-addictive treatments
- Incentivize academia & industry to accelerate discovery of non-addictive, effective therapies
- Develop or refine animal models of pain conditions
- Generate high quality data to support partnerships, translational programs





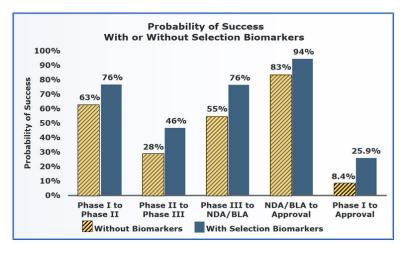
**Enhancing Pain Management** 

### Current HEAL Programs: Biomarker Program

Supporting Biomarker Discovery and Validation to Facilitate Clinical Trial Design and Clinical Pain Management Decisions

# Discovery of Biomarkers, Biomarker Signatures, and Endpoints for Pain

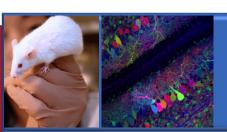
To facilitate discovery of robust biomarkers, biomarker signatures and objective endpoints for pain conditions



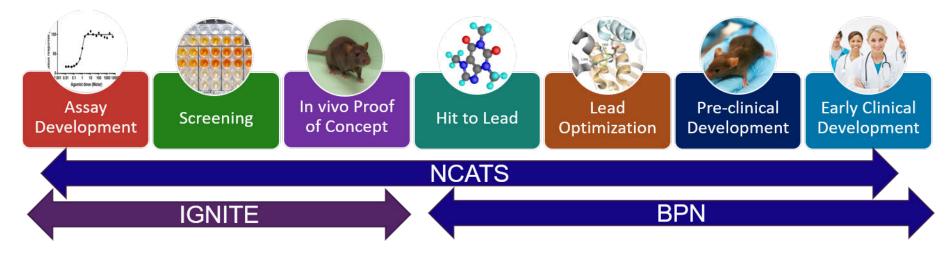
Thomas, D. W. et al. Clinical development success rates 2006–2015. San Diego: Biomedtracker/Washington, DC: BIO/Bend: Amplion (2016).

#### Analytical and Clinical Validation of a Candidate Biomarker for Pain

To support analytical and clinical validation of candidate biomarkers for use in the discovery and development of non-opiate alternatives to the treatment of pain conditions using retrospective and/or prospective methods

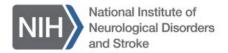


# Therapeutic development programs outside of HEAL: NCATS intramural, NINDS IGNITE and Blueprint Neurotherapeautics are Models to Bridge the Gaps



#### <u>Innovation Grants to Nurture</u> <u>Initial Translational Efforts</u>

- End goal is to meet BPN entry criteria
- Milestone-driven grant



#### Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Program

- Provides resources (CROs, consultants) in addition to grant support
- Milestone-driven cooperative agreement with goal of IND/IDE



## Proposed HEAL Analgesic Development Program

#### Goal

Accelerate development of novel, non-opioid, non-addictive analgesics

# **Five-year Benchmarks**

- ✓ At least 5 promising projects with appropriate assay(s), model(s), and tools ready for preclinical lead optimization.
- ✓ At least 3 novel analgesics with an IND and human safety data –
  ready for clinical efficacy studies through EPPIC-Net or equivalent
  phase II trial.



## **Realigned Program Strengths**

#### Enhanced monitoring & evaluation for program progression

• External Panel of Consultants for implementation, selection of models, assays, tools, nomination of candidate & program progress

#### **Enhanced coordination**

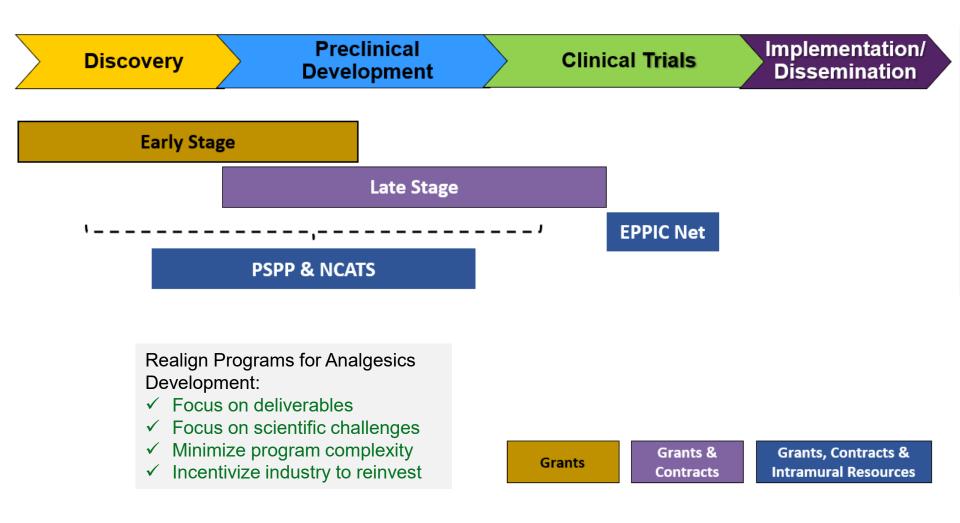
- Assist early stage projects to come into the program: planning awards
- Facilitate project advancement through sequential development phases
- Coordinate with Clinical team to advance project to clinical testing
- Facilitate industry partnership for early adoption
- Assure relevance to the program and overall diversity

#### **Enhanced Participation**

Assist early stage projects to come into the program: planning awards

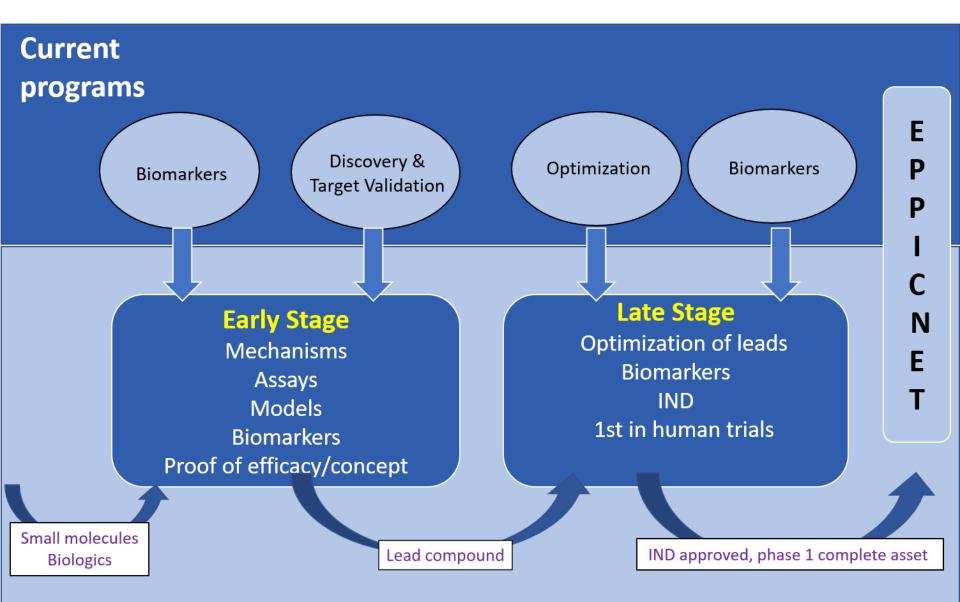


# Realigned HEAL Analgesic Development Program





## Realigned HEAL Analgesic Development Program



#### **Proposed program**

#### **HEAL Analgesic Development Program:** *Early Stage*

Discovery

Preclinical Development

Clinical Trials

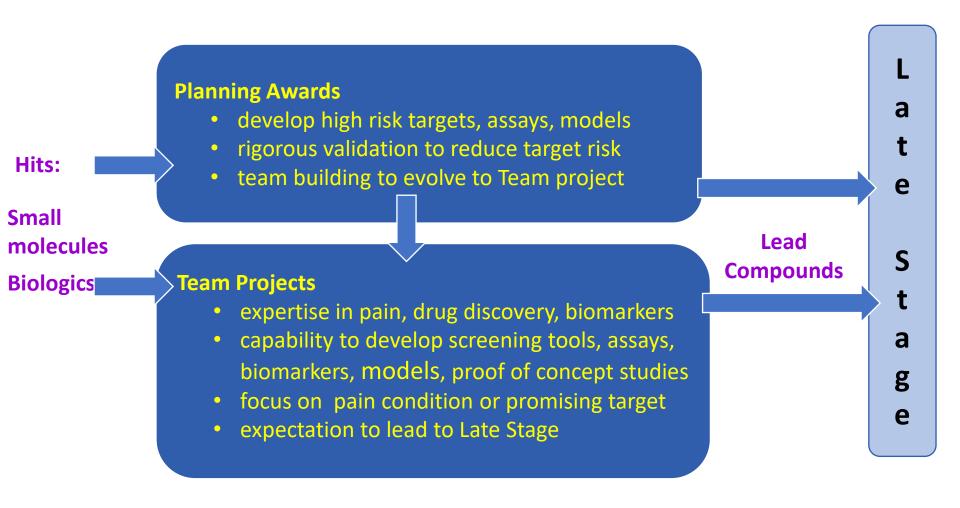
Implementation/
Dissemination

Planning Early Stage

End Goals and Milestones:
 ✓ Identify assays
 ✓ Validate models and testing tools
 ✓ Identify tools ready for optimization
 ✓ Identify a development path forward
 ✓ Seek partnerships
 ✓ Ready for Late Stage



#### HEAL Analgesic Development Program: *Early Stage*





#### **HEAL Analgesic Development Program:** *Late Stage*

**Preclinical** Implementation/ Discovery Clinical Trials Dissemination **Development** Planning **Early Stage** Late Stage **End Goals and Milestones:** ✓ Identify clinical candidate ✓ File IND. √ Complete phase I trial(s) ✓ Identify companion biomarker

Ready for phase II clinical trial

✓ Seek partnerships



### **HEAL Analgesic Development Program:** *Late Stage*

Lead Compounds

#### **HEAL Pain Therapeutics Program**

- Solicit targeted applications
- Confirm assays and studies necessary to initiate optimization or IND-enabling studies
- Conduct lead optimization to identify a development candidate
- Conduct IND-enabling studies and Phase I trials
- Collaborate with expert scientific consultants, CROs, PSPP, and NCATS
- Access to BPN and NCATs resources
- Incorporate biomarker development
- Focus = pain condition or promising target
- Expectation = lead to industry-funded or EPPIC
   NET/phase II trials

Phase II ready
I
C
N
E



#### **HEAL Analgesic Development Program: Biomarkers**

Early Team Projects

# Early stage biomarker development rolled into team projects

- Preclinical markers for validation, proof of concept
- Development and validation completed by team or subcontract

# Access to late stage biomarker development through contracts

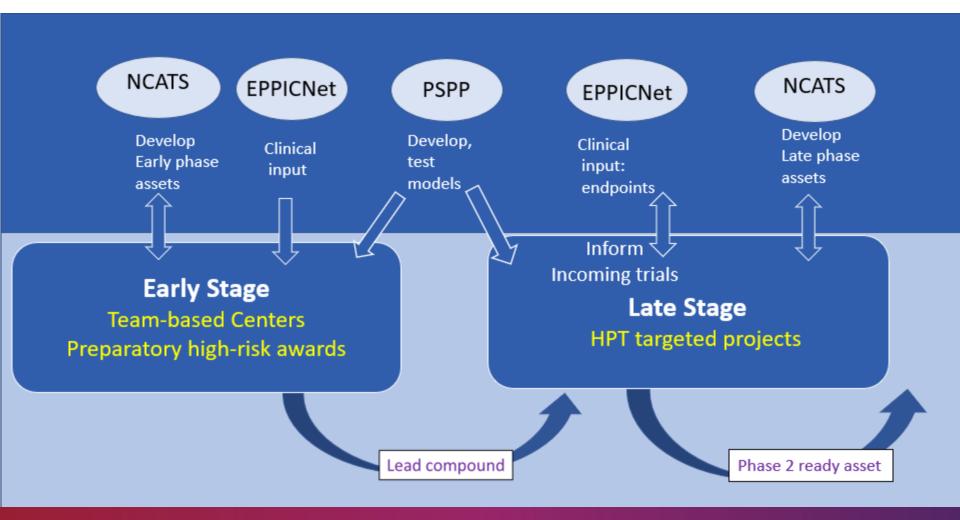
 Biomarker development resources for late stage preclinical and early stage human studies



Late Phase Projects



# Leveraging other HEAL programs





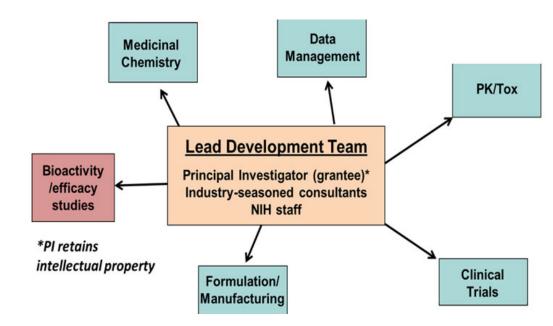
#### Early Stage:

#### **Build Confidence and Get Ready for Preclinical Lead Optimization**

- ✓ Study signaling pathway
- ✓ Identify multiple mechanisms that modulate the target
- Demonstrate target effects on the pathophysiology
- Demonstrate modulation of target effects the pathophysiology
- Develop and validate assays and tools specific for analgesic development

#### Late Stage:

# Provide Resources Not Readily Available in Academia





# **Closed Session**

# Adjourn

#### Accessible description of Slide 29

Slide 29 presents the number of opioid overdose—related emergency medical service (EMS) runs and emergency department (ED) visits 2018 to 2020 within Kentucky, Massachusetts, Ohio, and New York — the four states participating in the HEALing Communities Study. These data demonstrate the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on EMS and ED encounters in each state.

In Kentucky, EMS opioid overdose runs in May 2020 surpassed 900, compared with approximately 600 recorded for the same period in 2018 and 2019, with a slight decrease for June 2020. Similarly, in April and May 2020, ED visits for opioid overdose treatment exceeded the highest historical levels from the last two years, increasing from fewer than 400 to nearly 600 visits, with a dip in June 2020. Both of these trends show increases in opioid overdose encounters during the initial four months (March to June 2020) of the COVID-19 pandemic. Data Sources: Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services data and Syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits.

Opioid-related EMS and ED encounters in Ohio follow a similar pattern as Kentucky. EMS runs dramatically increased, to approximately 2,500 in April and May of 2020 compared with the same period in 2018 and 2019, where EMS runs hovered around 2,000. Similarly, Ohio ED visits trended upward in April and May 2020 compared with the two previous years. Data Sources: Ohio syndromic surveillance of emergency department visits.

Massachusetts lacked 2018 data for EMS runs; however, the number of encounters exceeded well over 100 in May 2020, compared with fewer than 100 in May 2019, returning to average values by June 2020. Massachusetts does not have ED visit data for 2018 or 2019; however, the number of ED visits decreased in April around the time of the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, which mirrors a decrease in data related to all ED visits during this time, with an increase between May and June 2020. Data Sources: Massachusetts Department of Public Health; MA Ambulance Trip Information System and Syndromic Surveillance data.

EMS runs associated with opioid encounters are quantified differently in New York than in Kentucky, Ohio, and Massachusetts. In New York, EMS runs where naloxone is administered are counted as opioid encounters. EMS naloxone administration data end in March 2020, limiting the ability to capture emerging trends at the onset of COVID-19. There are no significant changes between the first 3 months of 2020 and 2019. Beginning in 2020, additional diagnostic codes were added to the ED definitions of opioid-related visits, which accounts for much of the increase in the 2020 data compared with the data in 2018 and 2019. ED visits are trending downward beginning in March 2020 through July 2020, where data collection ends. Data Sources: New York State Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems and Syndromic Surveillance of emergency department visits.