Third Annual NIH HEAL Initiative Investigator Meeting | April 11-12, 2022

Dr. Rebecca Baker, Director, NIH HEAL Initiative, Office of the Director, NIH
An Evolving Public Health Challenge

In the wake of a global pandemic, loneliness has become a crisis of its own.

Social isolation intensifies mental health crisis.

Middle-school children fall prey to fatal fentanyl overdoses.

Addiction and overdose deaths rise in teens and young adults.

‘Historically tragic’: why are drug overdoses rising among Black and Indigenous Americans?

The staggering increase highlights the shifting dynamics and focus of the opioid crisis, long considered a white, rural issue.

Blacks, indigenous communities are disproportionately harmed.

Addiction treatment limited in justice settings.

Fragmented healthcare limits treatment access.

Variation in care for newborns.

Babies in recovery as opioid crisis continues.

HEAL research responds to an evolving crises.

Researchers find jailhouse opioid treatment cut recidivism.

NIH HEAL INITIATIVE
HEAL: Meeting the Moment
Progress This Past Year

- Integrated treatments for co-occurring pain and addiction
- Care for infants exposed to opioids
- Testing opioid alternatives
- New therapeutics for pain OUD
- Pain management approaches to guide clinical practice
- Evidence based treatment for people with OUD
New HEAL Research Aligned with HHS Overdose Prevention Strategy

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New Research Directions for HEAL in 2023

Care Coordination and Collaboration
- Pain Management in Rural Communities
- Multilevel Interventions for Patients on Long-term Opioid Therapy

Health Equity
- Medications for OUD in Diverse Groups
- Social Determinants of Addiction and Behavioral Health

Data-Driven Research
- Longitudinal Tracking of Opioid Exposures and Health Outcomes
- Piloting the HEAL Data Ecosystem

Evidence-Based Treatments
- Addressing Polysubstance Use
- Medication Development

Preventing Overdose
- Integrated Basic and Clinical Research
- High-throughput Tech
- Innovative Devices to Treat Pain

https://heal.nih.gov/funding/research-concepts
Voices of Lived Experience - HEAL Community Partner Committee

• Patients, advocates, liaisons, and family members
• Input on key issues faced by individuals affected by pain and addiction
• Identify, refine, and prioritize engagement activities and links to HEAL science
This Year’s Meeting Themes

• Be guided by voice of lived experience
• Look holistically at pain and addiction in research and care
• Set standard for embedding patient engagement in HEAL research
• Synergize with federal and other partners
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Investigator Meeting Hashtag: #HEAL2022