Building a Research Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities

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Establishing a Research Enterprise

- It is prestigious
- It enhances the quality of the academia
- It is potentially a good business
- Developing a vigorous research infrastructure should be in the mission of every academic institution
Institutional Strategic Plan for Research Development

- Crucial to convey commitment
- According to the institutional mission and vision
- Consider institutional strengths and weaknesses
- Consider needed administrative arrangements
- Consider additional faculty and staff
- Short- and long-term evaluation
- Realistic Business Plan
Development of Research Infrastructure

- Human Resources - Faculty in specific targeted areas, technical staff, supporting units, collaborators, consultants
- Physical Resources - Core Laboratories, Animal Research Facilities, Internet-2 facilities, construction of new areas, state-of-the-art equipment
Substantial Investment- Time and Resources

Takes time for things to happen- one needs focus and persistence

Competition for external funding is fierce – There are more ideas than funding available. Grant applications must be excellent!
Development of Research Infrastructure

- Success is possible but you need to position yourself
- Think what you can do well – Establish your niche
- Get help from collaborators, consultants
- Get to know colleagues in your field
- Learn about the different opportunities and choose wisely
Grant Writing-Grantsmanship

- Be open to research collaborations
- Establish partnerships
- Consider different funding sources but be selective—Federal Sources (NIH, NSF, HRSA, DOD, DOA) and non-Federal Sources (Howard Hughes and other Foundations, private sector, government agencies)
- Get to know the mission of the different funding sources and understand their cultures
The National Institutes of Health - New Challenges and Opportunities

- Operating budget of $30 Billion Annually
- 28 Centers and Institutes
- This agency is evolving – Emphasis on translational sciences, health disparities, new technology
- The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR) will be dismantled
- The establishment of the National Institute for Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS)
- A variety of new funding opportunities for research and research training
Research Infrastructure in Minority Institutions (RIMI) Initiative

- Strengthen its basic research infrastructure and capacity to improve and/or strengthen the institution’s science programs
- Institute a comprehensive research faculty development training program
- Establish an academic research enrichment training program for students interested in a science career
- Support individual faculty pilot research projects
The ultimate goal is to foster sustainable efforts at the community level that will accelerate the translation of research advances to health disparity populations and eliminate health disparities.

- Phase I (Planning-3 years), Phase II (Intervention-5 years), Phase III (Dissemination-3 years)
NCMHD Centers of Excellence Program

NCMHD Research Endowment Program

- Strengthen research infrastructure
- Enhance the academic environment
- Enhance recruitment and retention of faculty with expertise in health disparities
The National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD)

MARC Program (NIGMS)
MBRS RISE Program (NIGMS)
MBRS SCORE Program (NIGMS)
IDEA Programs

Most Institutes have training and development initiatives