



NIH IDeA Program in Alaska: Alaska INBRE Fact Sheet

*Biomedical research by Alaskans for Alaskans:
Local Relevance with International Significance*



What is Alaska INBRE?

- INBRE is a biomedical infrastructure development grant to the University of Alaska. This program supports Alaska-relevant biomedical research focused on environmental agents of disease, particularly contaminants and pathogens, and workforce development for health and research.

How does INBRE help Alaskans?

Human health concerns addressed by Alaska INBRE researchers include:

- Contaminants in Alaska food and fish (mercury, endocrine disruptors, etc.)
- Infectious diseases (avian influenza, rabies, francisella, etc.)
- Effects of smokeless tobacco (iqmik) on Alaska Natives
- Copper toxicosis and metabolism
- Iron acquisition and deficiency
- Fungal pathogens
- Cancer syndromes and DNA damage
- SIDS and mammalian respiratory control
- Neuronal receptors and neurodegenerative disease and addiction
- Bioremediation of contaminants



How does INBRE help the Alaskan workforce?

Alaska INBRE has funded important positions supporting biomedical research in Alaska:

- 22 Faculty researchers at the University of Alaska
- 241 undergraduate students
- 42 Graduate students working toward masters or Ph.D. degrees
- 19 Postdoctoral fellows
- 32 research staff supporting field and lab research
- 278 high school students' (60 Alaska Native) research projects supported.

What is the economic impact of NIH research in Alaska?

- Research---like seafood, timber, mining and oil/gas---drives economic development and supports industry. The February, 2011 issue of *Alaska Economic Trends* shows that it also brings new dollars into Alaska and is a significant source of jobs and revenues.
- In 2000 UA received approximately \$2 million in NIH funding, but that number tripled when the IDeA programs were established with awards totaling about \$4 million in 2001. Following this investment, UA's NIH funding has dramatically increased---by 2009 NIH's funding increased to \$13 million.

