The NIH IDeA Program in WV

NIH-IDEA has helped West Virginia 1) build research programs; 2) create innovation; 3) provide education to students from high school to graduate school; 4) generate workforce development; and 5) improve public health.

Over the course of the NIH-IDEA program in WV, faculty have received COBRE, INBRE and IDeA-CTR Awards.

- Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE)
  3 current awards (6 total): $32,585,841
- IDeA- Clinical and Translational Research (CTR)
  1 current award: $20,000,000
- IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE)
  1 current award: $17,581,101

A total of $193,207,141 in IDEA funds have been awarded to West Virginia faculty. The top NIH-funded research areas in West Virginia have been neuroscience, cancer, stroke, clinical and translational research, cardiovascular disease, infectious disease and obesity-related diseases.

The COBRE programs, the INBRE and CTR programs, generate, complement, and enrich WV’s research strengths by leveraging NIH investment in personnel, equipment, core facilities and student programs to solve health problems, build research capacity, and build a better student pipeline for the next generation of physicians, healthcare workers, and scientists. Clinical and translational research supported by the CTR program seeks to reduce health disparities in underserved and understudied populations.

Impact of NIH-IDEA in WV

Research: 1) Resources to support fundamental discoveries for development of novel prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases that represent significant health disparities in WV (example: pilot study on rheumatoid arthritis leads to publication in NATURE group journal genes and Immunity); 2) Development and expansion of the West Virginia Practice-Based Research Network to bring research to West Virginia communities (example: diabetic retinopathy scanning project); and 3) Infrastructure development for biomedical research across the state.

Education: 1) Shared resource workshops to introduce cutting edge technology and increase access to, and awareness of, core facilities; and 2) Clinical and Translational Research Seminar Series to strengthen education for translational investigators related to compliance issues, grant preparation, data analysis, etc.

Workforce Development: 1) Innovation and entrepreneurship training opportunities for graduate students and junior faculty; and 2) Formal research training opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and clinicians throughout the state including certificate, master’s and PhD programs.

Public Health: Integration of innovative technology platforms to address prevention and treatment needs in rural areas (example: feasibility study on nutrition/dietary support via mobile app technology).

The IDeA Program has had a $429M economic impact in West Virginia since 2000 based on a multiplier from Battelle.