



The Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI)

Raynard S. Kington, M.D., Ph.D.
Deputy Director
National Institutes of Health

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What is OPASI's Mission?

- To provide NIH, Institutes and Centers with the methods and information necessary to improve management of their large and complex scientific portfolios
- To identify -- in concert with multiple other inputs -- important areas of emerging scientific opportunities or rising public health challenges
- To assist in acceleration of investments in these areas, focusing on those involving multiple ICs
- To coordinate and make more effective use of the NIH-wide evaluation process

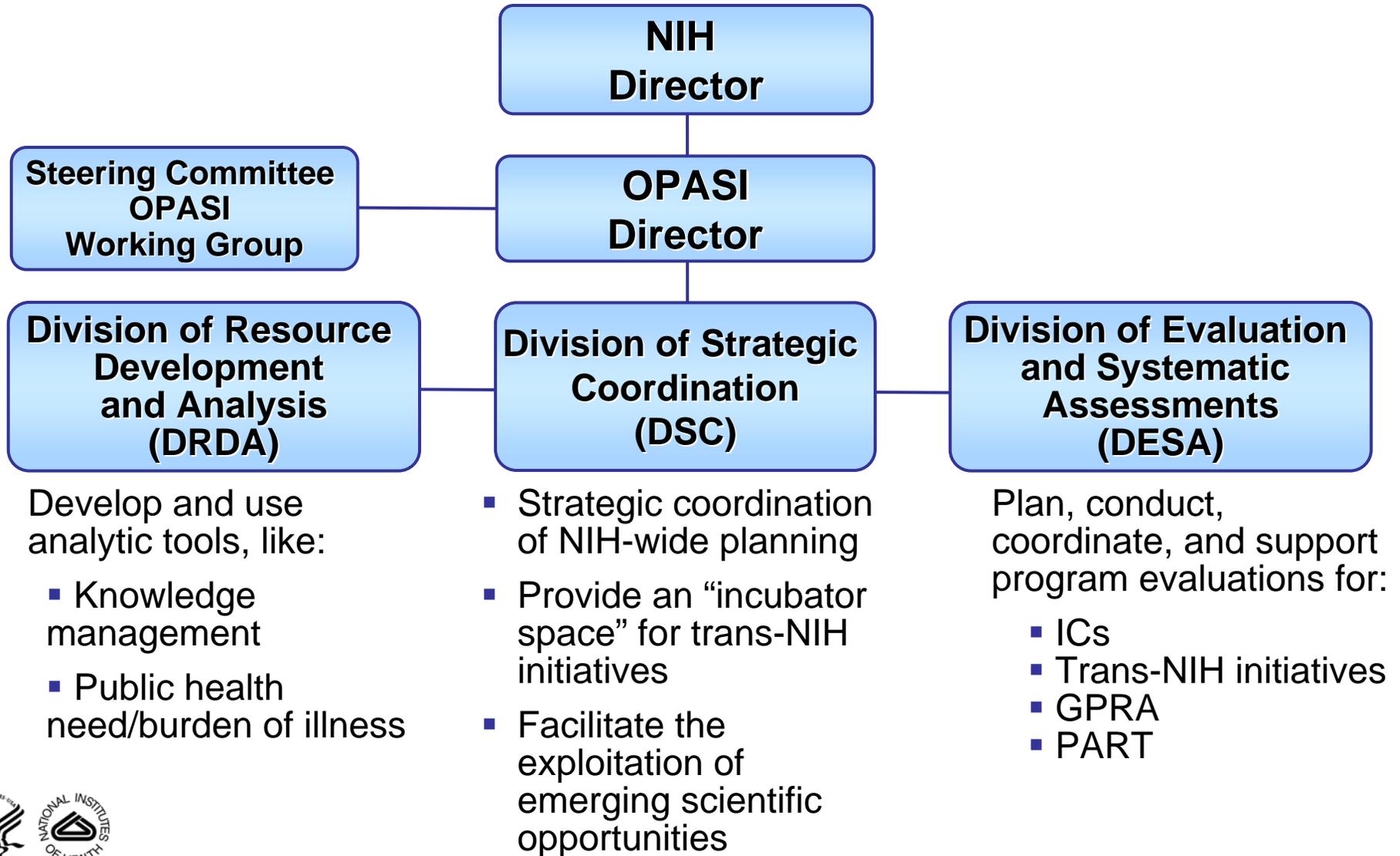


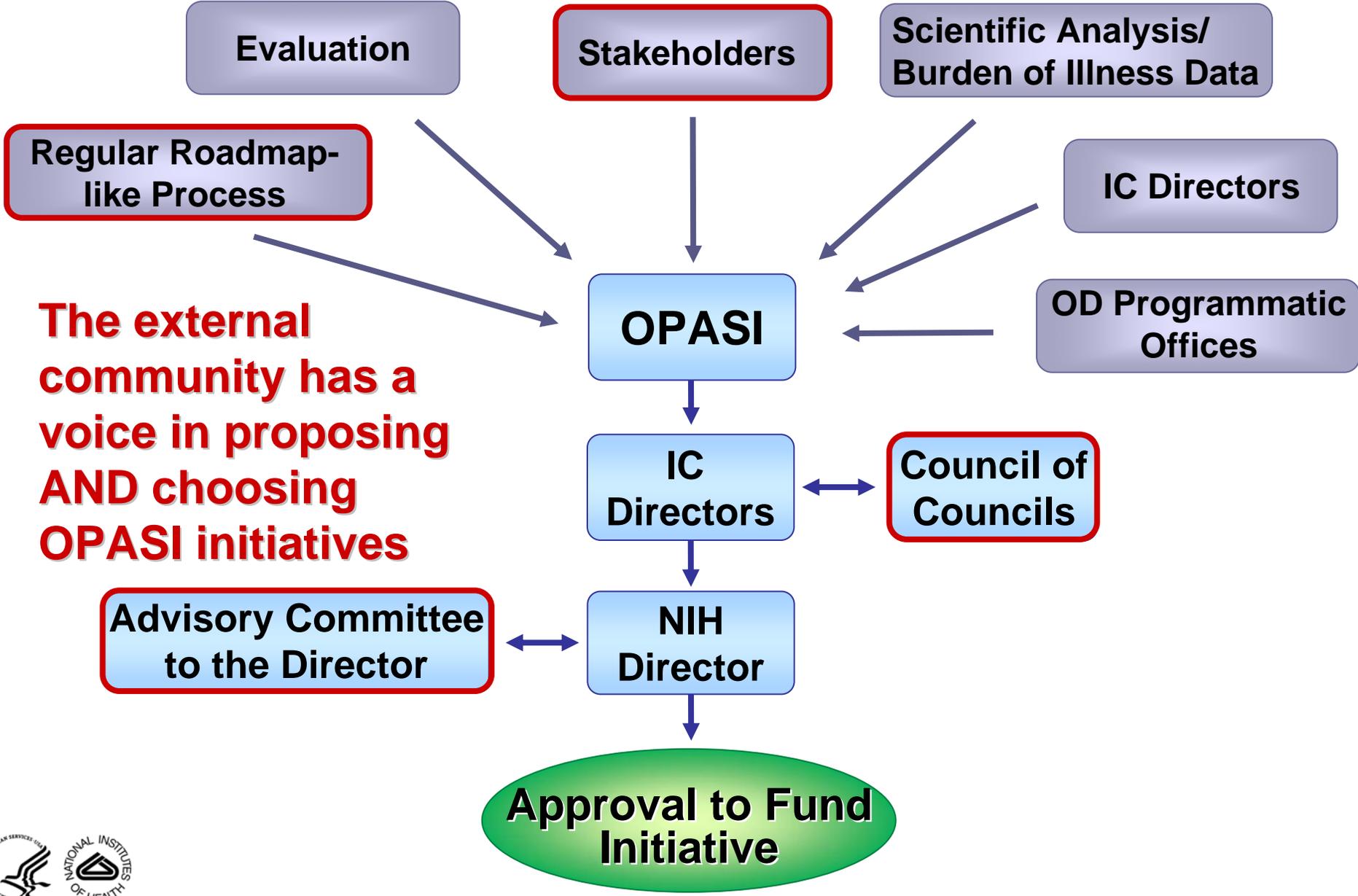
Why Does NIH Need OPASI?

- Need for coordinated assessment and management of the overall portfolio of NIH-funded research
- Need for transparent, systematic processes for:
 - Coding funding related to specific diseases and conditions
 - Assessing scientific opportunities and public health needs and integrating them into NIH-wide funding priorities
 - Coordinating funding of research areas that cut across or fall between the missions of individual Institutes and Centers
- Need to continually evaluate the benefits and impact of NIH research investments
- Need to be nimble, dynamic, and responsive to emerging scientific demands and opportunities



Structure of OPASI







How Does OPASI Select and Implement *Trans*-NIH Research?

- Stakeholders, including the scientific and advocacy communities, submit suggestions for potential research projects to OPASI
- These proposals are reviewed by:
 - OPASI leadership
 - Institute and Center (IC) Directors
 - Council of Councils
 - Advisory Committee to the Director (ACD)
 - NIH Director
- Once approved for funding:
 - Initiatives are assigned to a lead IC or ICs
 - Research is supported by the Common Fund
- Evaluation of progress:
 - Annual review of initiatives
 - Major review at year 3-4
 - Decision at year 5
 - Renew for final 5-year period
 - Continue research at IC(s)
 - Sunset Initiative



Common Fund for Shared Needs

- Common Fund will be part of a prospective, planning process to fund initiatives that are in areas of interest to multiple ICs
- Common Fund is not a transfer authority – it is a set aside fund of a percentage of the annual budgets of the NIH ICs to support research identified by the transparent OPASI planning process
- Current Roadmap funds will serve as the baseline for the Common Fund: 1.1% of the total NIH budget in FY 2006, growing to ~1.7% in FY 2008



Common Fund for Shared Needs

- Future growth of the Common Fund:
 - No growth above the FY 2008 percent until the annual NIH budget increase exceeds BRDPI
 - The rate of growth will be determined annually by the NIH Director and the IC Directors
 - Common Fund will increase up to 5% of the total NIH budget, *dependent on and consistent with identified trans-NIH scientific opportunities and public health needs*



OPASI

A bold new approach to assuring that NIH is effective and efficient in meeting its mission