

SRNT Input on NIDA Strategic Plan

The Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) applauds the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) for revitalizing its Strategic Plan and fully supports the many of identified priorities. In addition to our overall support, SRNT would like to put forward the following general recommendations.

In addition to epidemiological and clinical research, basic science research can also focus on policy-oriented items. Thus, the importance of basic science research that provides practical knowledge that can inform policy while not necessarily addressing mechanistic hypotheses should be recognized.

Clearly, basic neuroscience is important and deserves major focus. However, the importance of basic science that examines behavioral mechanisms of addiction also needs full consideration.

Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death and illness in the United States and thus research supporting treatment development for nicotine dependence and tobacco use disorders and dissemination of findings should be a priority.

In addition, greater emphasis should be placed on support for the development of novel, evidence-based targeted prevention and treatment interventions for all substance abuse disorders. SRNT recommends three additional considerations be included as sub-priorities to this goal:

- Development and dissemination of effective behavioral interventions using novel strategies with wide-potential population reach.
- Emphasis on research into the development of treatments of substance abuse disorders among high risk populations such as low-SES persons and those with comorbid physical and psychiatric conditions. Substance abuse disorders have a disproportionate impact on these populations.
- Research on optimizing the timing and duration of interventions for substance abuse disorders in order to improve outcomes.

Changes in drug policies (e.g., legalization of marijuana use in some states) and new technologies to administer drugs (e.g., electronic delivery systems) have contributed to a void in understanding of important issues related to substance abuse disorders. Issues that warrant serious consideration include:

- The effects of poly drug use and additives on abuse liability.
- The impact of different modes of drug delivery on both drug dependence and health, with a particular emphasis on electronic drug delivery methods.
- The impact of exposure to one substance or one form of delivery of that substance on subsequent use of other substances or other forms of the same substance.
- The impact of new policies and technologies on harm reduction.