

Thomas R. Insel, M.D.
Director, National Institute of Mental Health

Thomas R. Insel, M.D., is Director of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the component of the National Institutes of Health charged with generating knowledge to understand, treat, and prevent mental disorders. His tenure at NIMH has been distinguished by groundbreaking findings on the genetics and neurobiology of mental disorders as well as efforts to transform the diagnosis and treatment of serious mental illnesses. In addition to his leadership of NIMH, Dr. Insel has served as Chair of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (since 2002), co-chair of the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research (since 2004), and Acting Director of the National Center for Advancing Translational Science (2011-2012). Currently Dr. Insel is one of the leaders for the NIH Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) effort, a Presidential initiative focused on developing new tools for understanding the brain.

Prior to his appointment as NIMH Director in the Fall 2002, Dr. Insel was Professor of Psychiatry at Emory University. There, he was founding director of the Center for Behavioral Neuroscience and director of an NIH-funded Center for Autism Research. From 1994 to 1999, he was Director of the Yerkes Regional Primate Research Center in Atlanta. While at Emory, Dr. Insel continued the line of research he had initiated at NIMH, studying the neurobiology of complex social behaviors. He has published over 280 scientific articles and four books, including the *Neurobiology of Parental Care* (with Michael Numan) in 2003.

Dr. Insel is a member of the Institute of Medicine, a fellow of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, and is a recipient of several awards, including the Outstanding Service Award from the U.S. Public Health Service and the 2010 La Fondation IPSEN Neuronal Plasticity Prize. Dr. Insel graduated from the combined B.A.-M.D. program at Boston University in 1974. He did his internship at Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and his residency at the Langley Porter Neuropsychiatric Institute at the University of California, San Francisco.