

Richard J. Hodes, M.D.

Director, National Institute on Aging, NIH

Richard J. Hodes, M.D., directs the research program of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health. A leading immunologist, Dr. Hodes was named Director of the NIA in 1993, to oversee studies of the basic, clinical, epidemiological and social aspects of aging.

Under Dr. Hodes' stewardship, the NIA budget has surpassed \$1 billion, reflecting increased public interest in aging as America and the world grow older. Dr. Hodes has devoted his tenure to the development of a strong, diverse, and balanced research program, focusing on the genetics and biology of aging, basic and clinical studies aimed at reducing disease and disability, including Alzheimer's disease and age-related cognitive change, and investigation of the behavioral and social aspects of aging. Ultimately, these efforts have one goal -- improving the health and quality of life for older people and their families.

The NIA has led new and innovative ways to conduct research, share data and translate findings into practical interventions and public information. In biology, studies examine genetic and other factors influencing aging, how they affect longevity and how they intersect with the development of age related diseases and conditions. Research in geriatrics is uncovering new ways to combat frailty with age, and social and demographic research is deepening understanding of the individual behaviors and societal decisions that affect well-being.

The NIA is the NIH lead in research on Alzheimer's disease, and Dr. Hodes' tenure has brought new initiatives revolutionizing the way we think about Alzheimer's dementia. Studies in genetics, basic mechanisms, imaging and biomarkers have helped lead to development of potential therapies aimed at a variety of targets and testing interventions at the earliest signs of disease. Dr. Hodes represents NIH on the HHS Secretary's Federal Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Disease Research, Care, and Services and coordinates the NIH research efforts under the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

Dr. Hodes is a graduate of Yale University and received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He completed training in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and in Oncology at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Hodes is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, a member of The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. As an author of more than 250 research papers, he is an influential scientist in and contributor to the field of immunology.