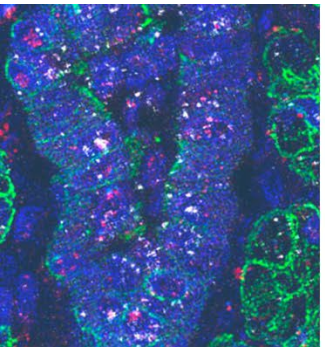
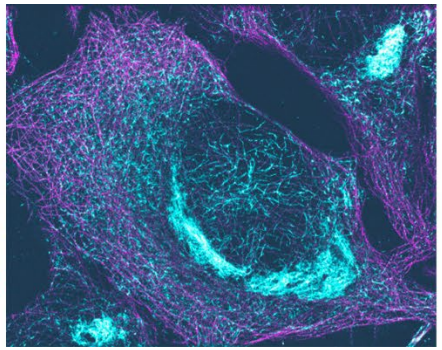
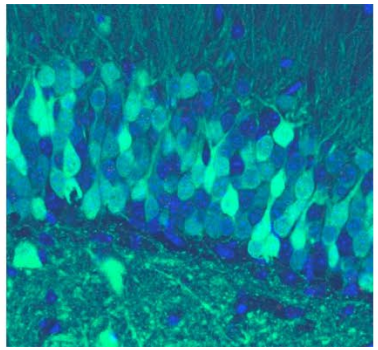
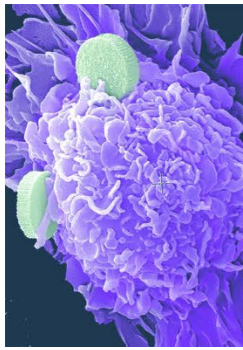
Connecting Lab, Clinic and Community: Communities Advancing Research Equity (CARE) for Health™

Annual NIH Pragmatic Trials Collaboratory Workshop
July 16, 2024









Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD
Director, National Institutes of Health

Topics for Today

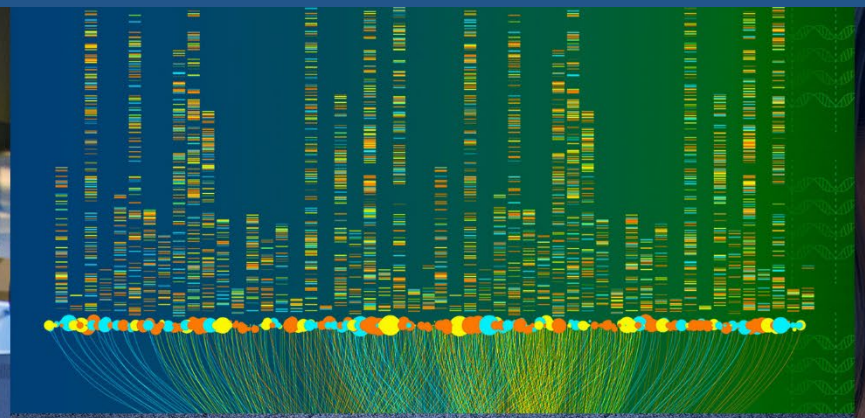
- Guiding principles and NIH priorities
- Disturbing trends in the health of the U.S. population
- CARE for Health

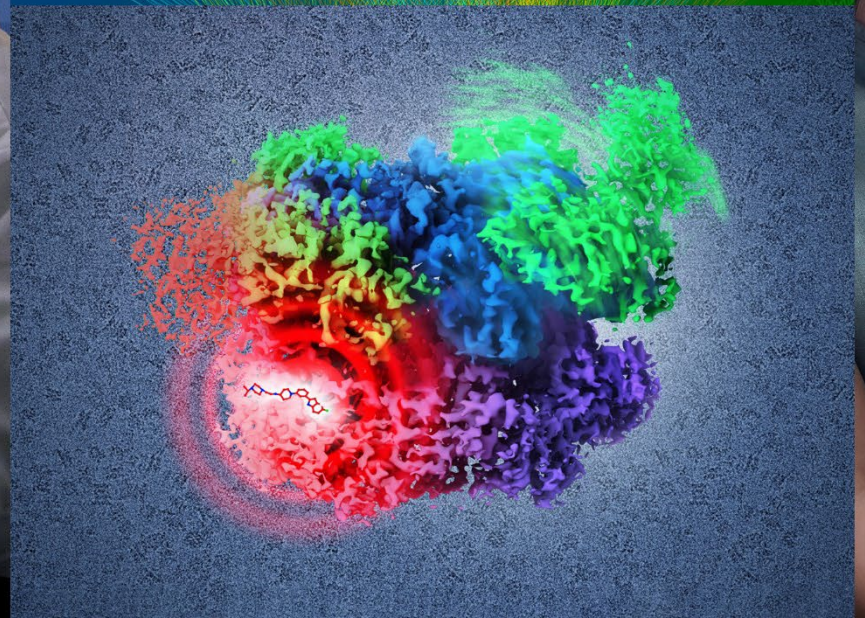
Guiding Principles

Our work is not finished when we deliver scientific discoveries, our work is finished when all people are living long and healthy lives.

NIH research encompasses the laboratory, the clinic, and the community.

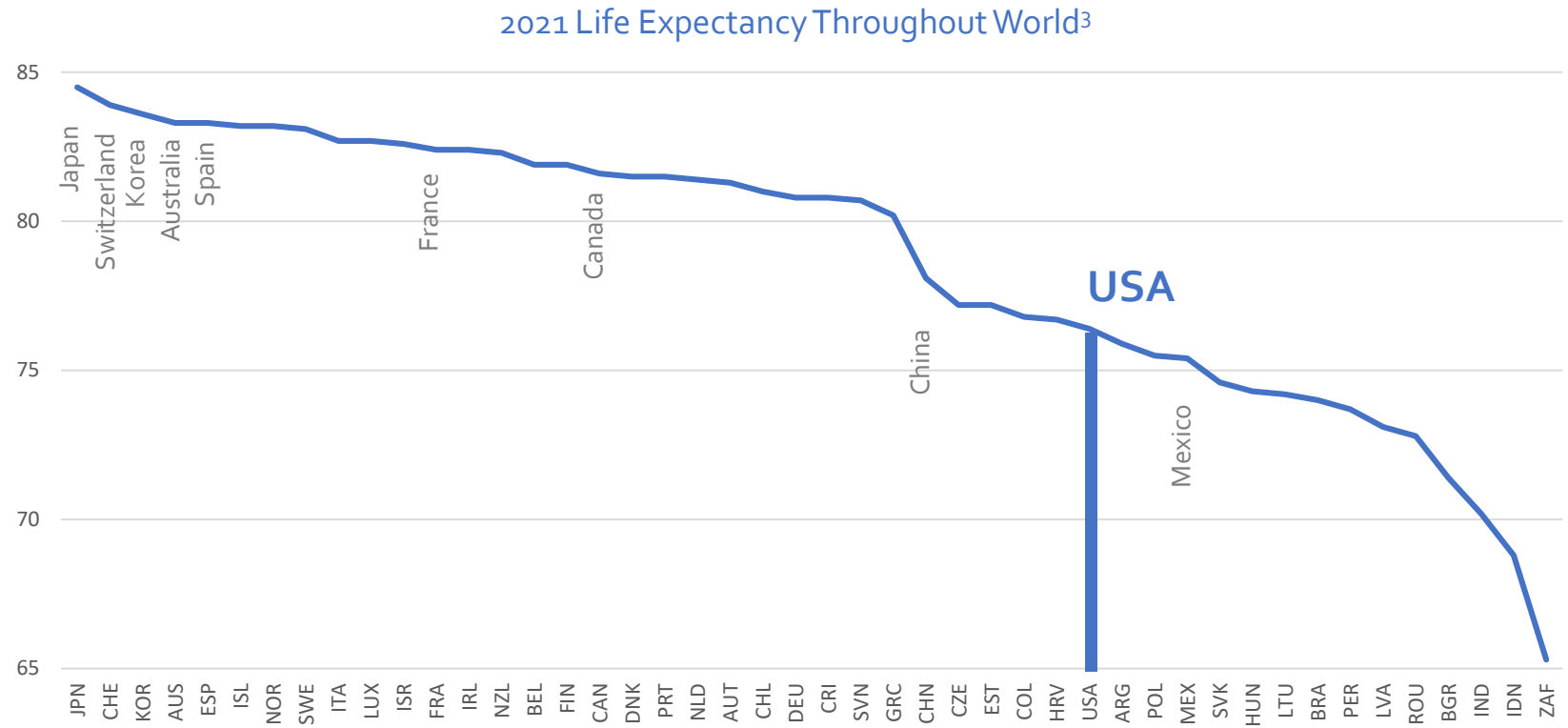
Progress is accelerated when advanced scientific methods, such as new data analytics, are applied to data that includes everyone, and when new discoveries are rapidly and equitably adopted in clinical care.





Disturbing trends in the health of the U.S. population

U.S. life expectancy ranks low among peers

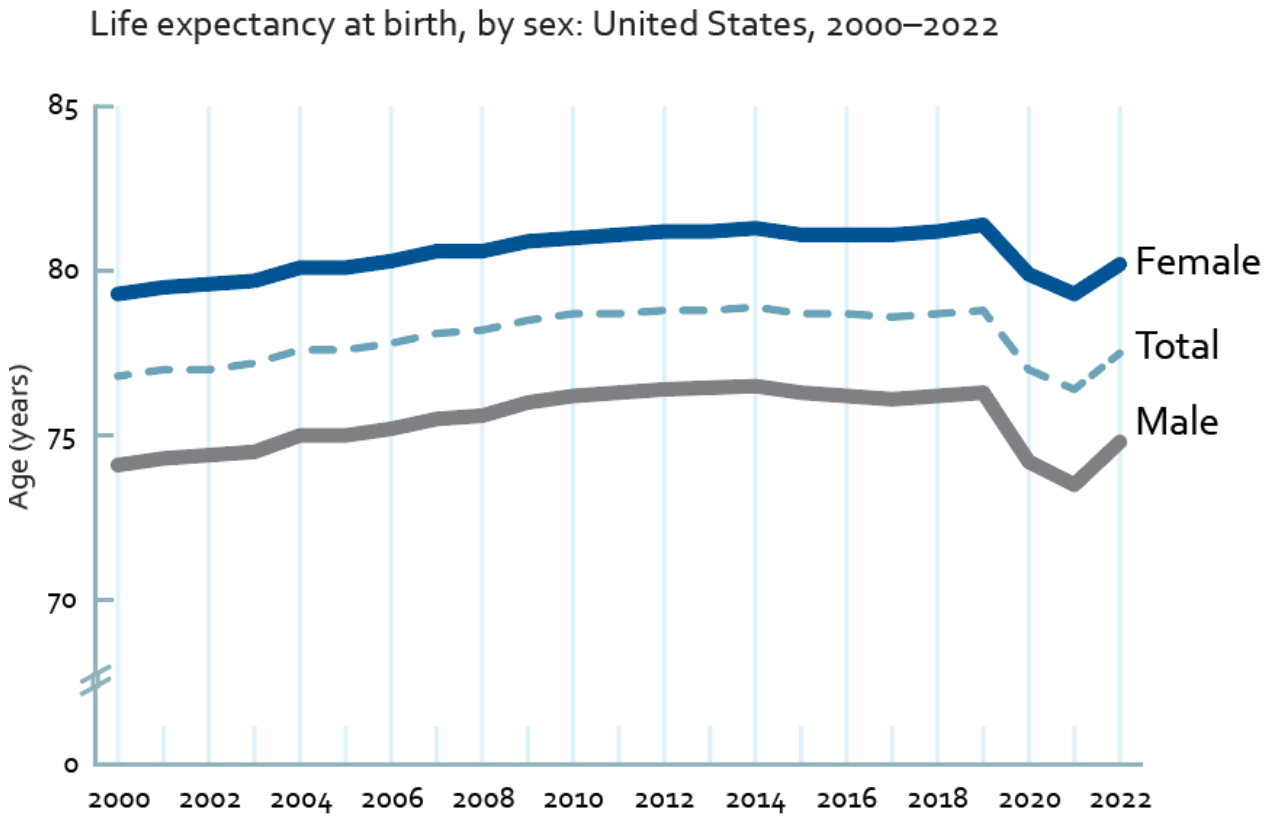


Concerning U.S. life expectancy trends:

- Declined 2014-2017[1]
- Dropped significantly—2.4 years—between 2019 and 2021[2]
- Increased in 2022 by 1.1 years; gain does not make up for pandemic losses.[2]

(1) National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. 2021. *High and Rising Mortality Rates Among Working-Age Adults*. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. https://doi.org/10.17226/25976.
(2) Arias E, Kochanek KD, Xu JQ, Tejada-Vera B. Provisional life expectancy estimates for 2022. Vital Statistics Rapid Release; no 31. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. November 2023. https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:133703.
(3) Chart data: OECD (2024), Life expectancy at birth (indicator). DOI: 10.1787/27e0fc9d-en (Accessed on 10 January 2024)

U.S. life expectancy is no longer steadily increasing

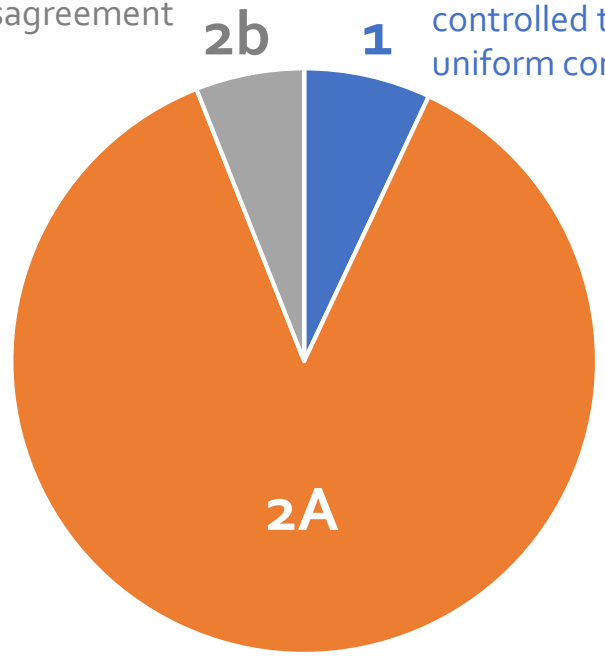


NOTES: Estimates are based on provisional data for 2022. Provisional data are subject to change as additional data are received. Estimates for 2000–2021 are based on final data.
SOURCE: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, mortality data file.

Levels of evidence supporting treatment guidelines

Lower level of evidence
without a uniform consensus but with no major disagreement

High level evidence
such as randomized controlled trials with uniform consensus



Lower level of evidence
with uniform consensus

Int J Cancer. 2021 Jan 15;148(2):429-436. doi: 10.1002/ijc.33215. Epub 2020 Aug 14.

Category of evidence and consensus underlying National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines: Is there evidence of progress?

Aakash P Desai [1], Ronald S Go [2], Thejaswi K Poonacha [3]

NCCN Levels of Evidence

7%	**Category 1:**	High level evidence such as randomized controlled trials with uniform consensus
87%	**Category 2A:**	Lower level of evidence with uniform consensus
6%	**Category 2B:**	Lower level of evidence without a uniform consensus but with no major disagreement
0%	**Category 3:**	Any level of evidence but with major disagreement

What Should NIH Do?

Connect research to primary care

Preparations for Launch

- Listening sessions
  - Patients
  - Community Groups
  - Primary Care Providers
  - Hospital Systems
  - Research Networks
  - Federal Agencies

CARE for Health™

Community-based primary care practices

CARE for Health™

Engender trust in science by addressing community needs

Community-based primary care practices

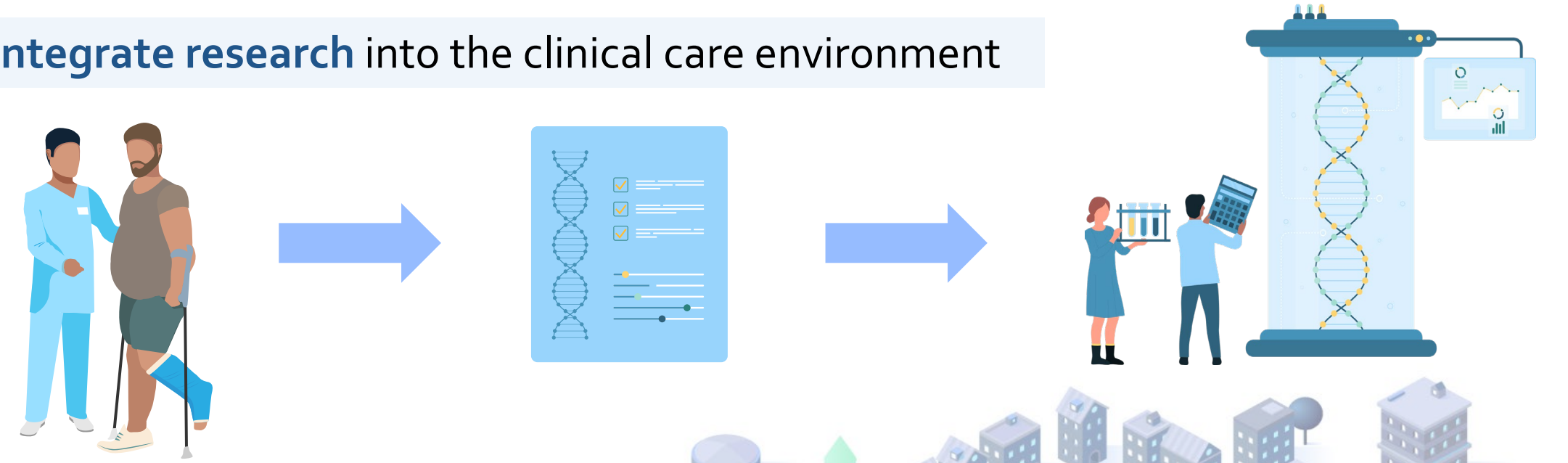
CARE for Health™

Conduct research addressing **issues important to diverse communities**, particularly those **underrepresented** in biomedical research

Community-based primary care practices

CARE for Health™

Integrate research into the clinical care environment



Community-based primary care practices

CARE for Health™

Achieve **longitudinal collection of clinical data** to address health across the lifespan

Community-based primary care practices

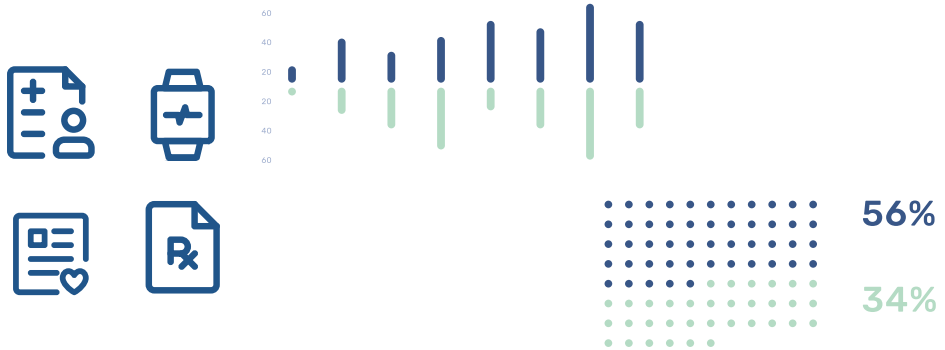
CARE for Health™

Reduce burden on providers using innovative data collection methods

Community-based primary care practices

CARE for Health™

Increase adherence to **evidence-based care**

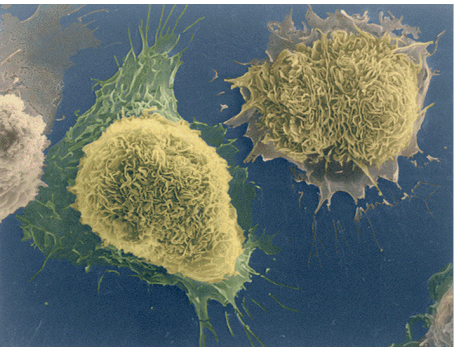
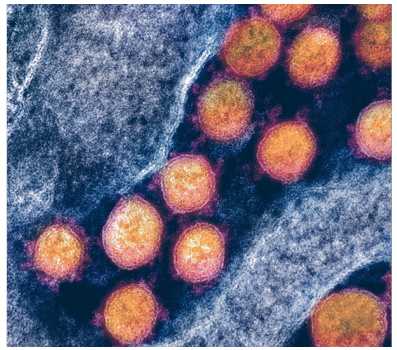
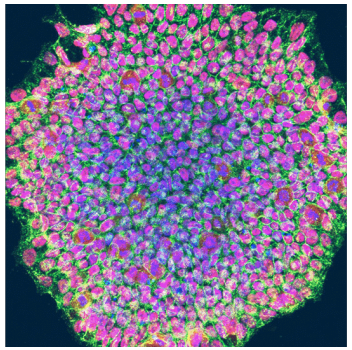
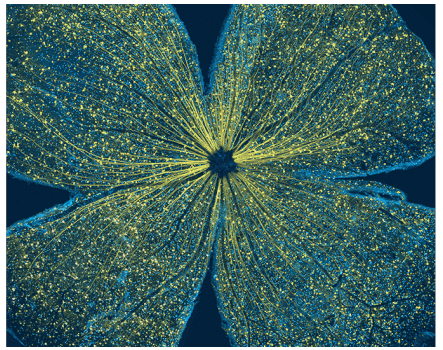
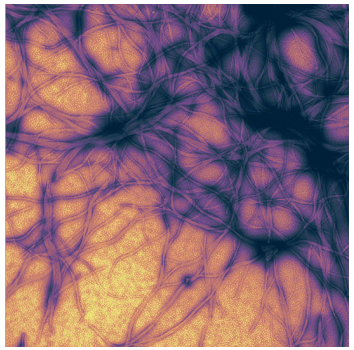
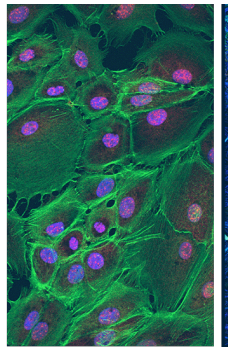
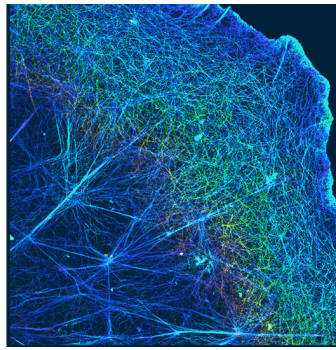


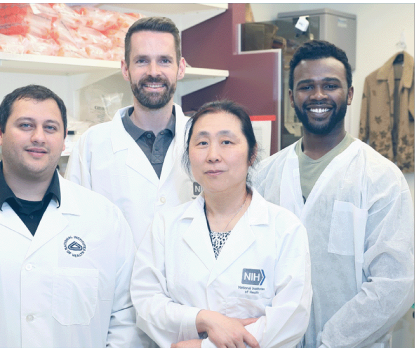
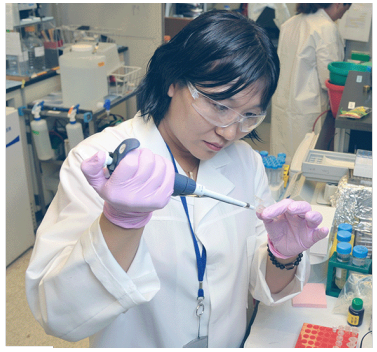
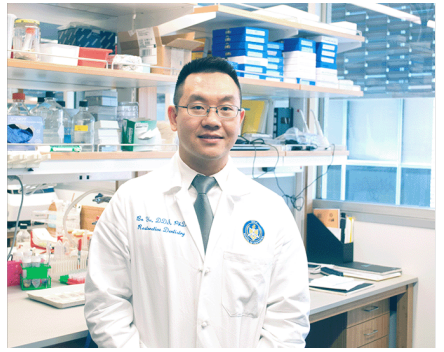
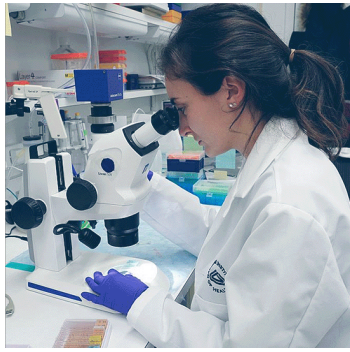
Community-based primary care practices

CARE for Health™

Improve **efficiency of care delivery**

Community-based primary care practices

NIH

Turning Discovery Into Health