Infections and Environmental Interactions: Who is Responsible?

Karl A. Western, MD, DTPH

Senior International Science Advisor NIH/NIAID

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NIAID History

1887 - Hygienic Laboratory

1948 - National Microbiology Institute

1955 - National Institute of Allergy and Infectious

Diseases

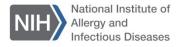






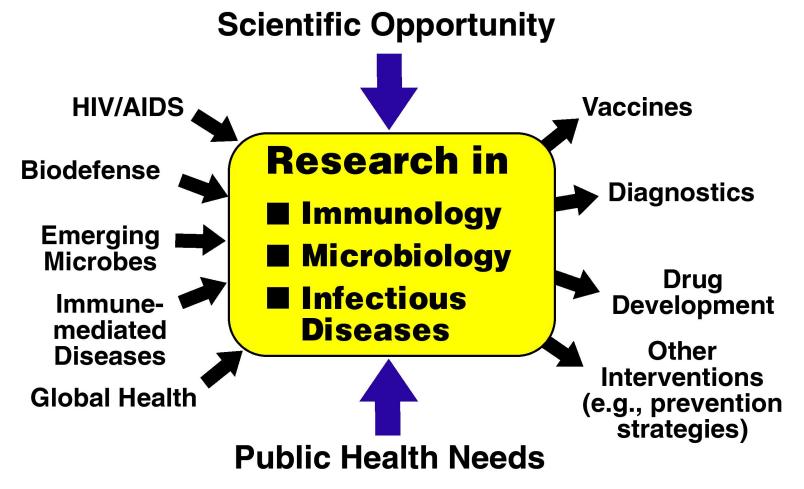
Changing Mission

- Environmental Protection Agency
 - Established in 1970
 - Charged with protecting human health and the environment.
- Molecular Biology and Immunology Revolution (1970s)
- HIV/AIDS epidemic
 - 1986 NIAID assumes major NIH responsibility for HIV research
- Genomics and Informatics Revolution
 - 2003 Lead responsibility for Civilian Biodefense
 - 2006 U.S. Adoption of International Health Regulations





NIAID: The Research Path





NIAID Mission

Conduct and support basic and applied research to better understand, treat, and ultimately prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases



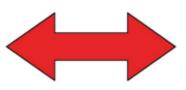






NIAID Research: A Dual Mandate

Maintain and "grow" a robust basic and applied research portfolio in microbiology, infectious diseases, immunology and immune-mediated diseases



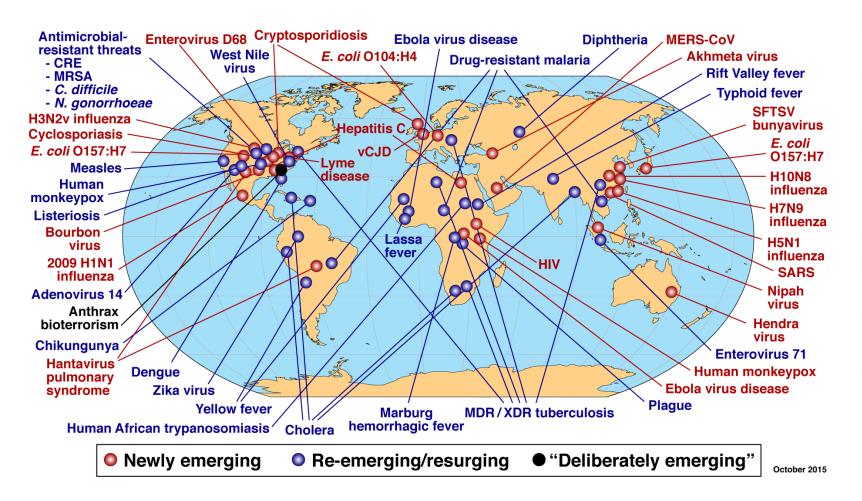
Respond rapidly to new and emerging disease threats

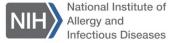
New/Improved Interventions





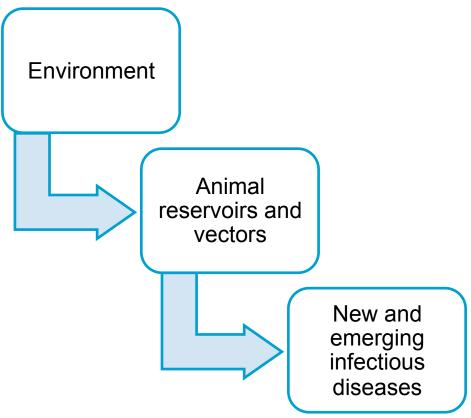
Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases





Zoonotic Origin of Infectious Diseases

 Most new and re-emerging infectious diseases are zoonosis







Impact of Climate Change on Infectious Diseases

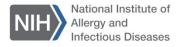
- Shifts in weather patterns can cause environmental changes that favor microbial growth
 - Cholera outbreaks as a result of high temperatures and flooding
- Vector borne diseases and zoonotic diseases are climate sensitive
 - Distribution of vector populations change with changes in temperature
 - Increased incidence of diseases with mosquito vectors





NIAID Programs with Environmental Focus

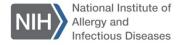
- Interagency agreement on international impact of climate change between NIAID and EPA.
- Inner-city Asthma Research
 - Environmental intervention study to reduce asthma morbidity in at-risk children
- Centers of Excellence for Influenza Research and Surveillance (CEIRS)
 - Virologic surveillance in aquatic birds and in live bird markets in Hong Kong to identify influenza viruses with pandemic potential
 - Natural history of influenza A viruses in wild birds, virus ecology and viral hosts





NIAID Future Goals

- Predict and prevent next epidemic before it happens
- Identify diseases that have the potential to appear and reappear
- How?
 - Strengthen relationship with environmental research partners
 - Engage research partners across different disciplines and fields (veterinary, agricultural, environmental partners)





For more information:

Karl Western kwestern@niaid.nih.gov 301-496-7621

