

Setting Priorities for the Basic Sciences of Mental Health Final Report to NAMHC – May 14, 2004

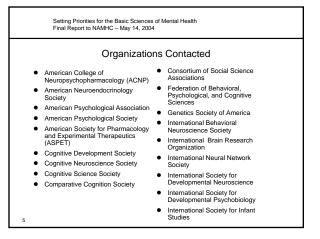
Fundamental task:

· Help NIMH set priorities for the basic behavioral and neurosciences

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Domains of Basic Science in Mental Health

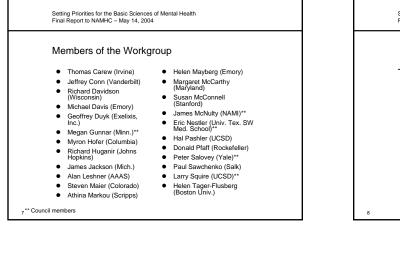
- Molecular, Cellular, and Genomic Neuroscience
- Behavioral Neuroscience
- Basic Behavioral Science

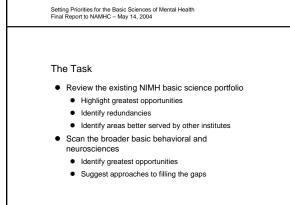


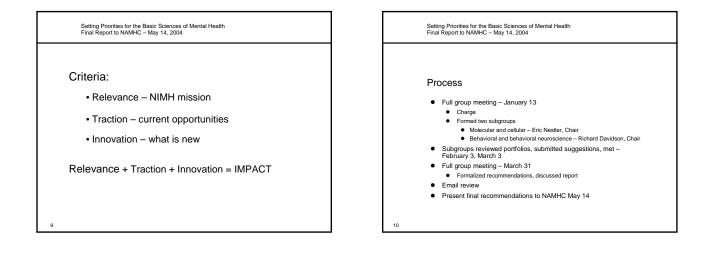
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# **Organizations Contacted**

- International Society for Research in Emotion Society for Neuroscience
- International Society of Developmental Psychobiology
- International Society for Psychoneuroendocrinology (ISPNE)
- Linguistic Society of America
- Psychonomic Society
- Sleep Research Society ٠
- Society for Behavioral Neuroendocrinology
- Society for Developmental Biology .
- Society for Experimental Social Psychology .
- Society for Personality and Social Psychology Society for Psychophysiological
- Research Society for Research in Child
  - Development
- Society for Research on Biological Rhythms







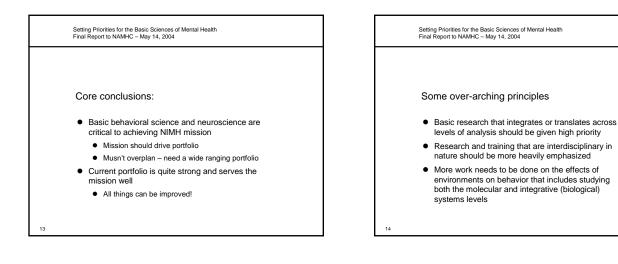
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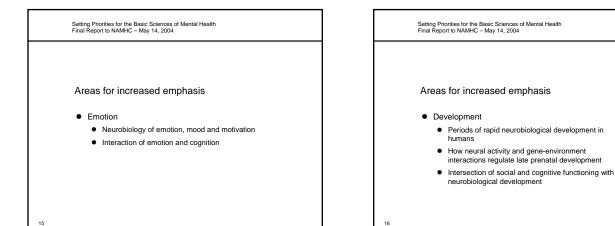
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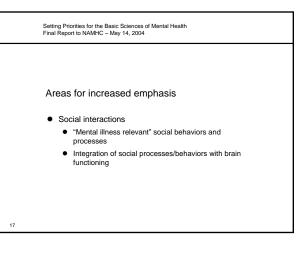
## Organization of the report

- Over-arching principles
- Cross-cutting themes
- Areas for increased emphasis
- New and improved research tools
- Areas ready for refocus
- Areas better served by other institutes

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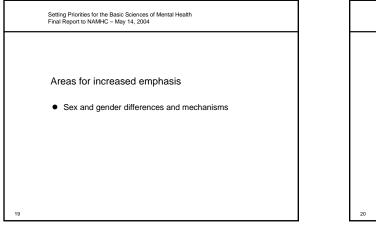
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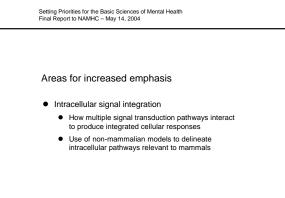
#### Areas for increased emphasis

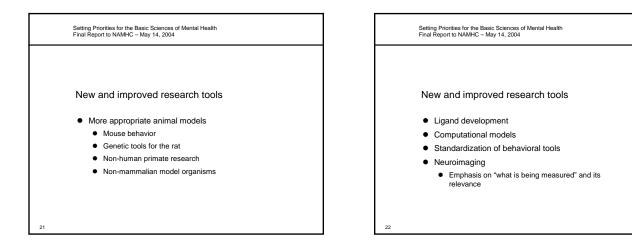
#### Neural circuitry

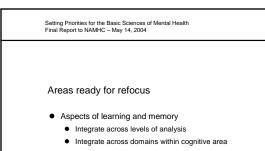
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- Take advantage of cellular imaging tools
- Psychotropic drug action and complex behaviors
- Synaptic mechanisms
- Neuronal replacement









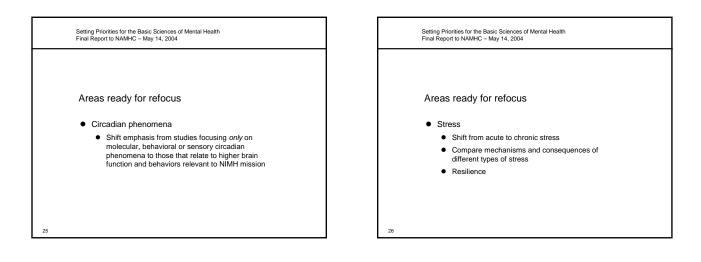
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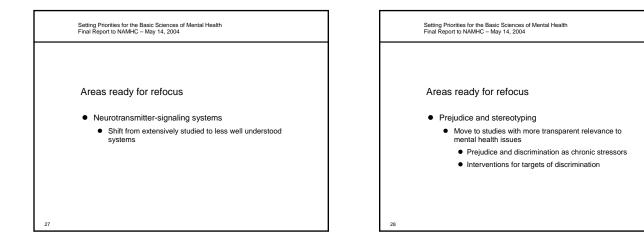
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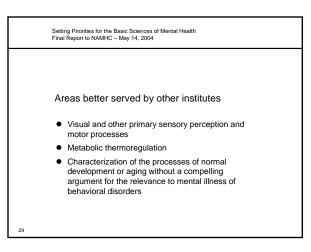
#### Areas ready for refocus

#### Sleep

- Reduce efforts at simply phenotyping sleep problems in psychiatric disorders
- Emphasize mechanistic studies of sleep and relationship to waking behaviors
- Emphasize molecular neurobiology and circuitry of sleep, arousal, attentional states, and sleep's influence on cognitive and affective processes







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## Concluding comments

- NIMH program staff should continuously scrutinize the portfolio to identify areas that may become overly subscribed or saturated
- Work with CSR to re-examine the focus and composition of study sections to better serve NIMH interests
- NIMH should create ways to foster and support translational research and training
- Training programs for basic scientists could include education on the clinical phenomena of mental illness (and the reverse)

