OFFICE OF SCIENCE (OS)

SNAPSHOT

MISSION

To uphold the quality, impact, and integrity of CDC's science and advance strategic science to save lives and protect health.

ORGANIZATION

- Office of the Director (OD)
- Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations (OPHER)
- Office of Science Dissemination (OSD)
- Office of Scientific Evidence and Recommendations (OSER)
- Office of Science Quality and Library Services (OSQLS)

PRIORITIES

- Lead CDC prioritization and dissemination of high-quality, impactful science to guide public health action, intervention, and policy.
- Ensure science and research activities are guided by the highest quality and integrity standards.
- Optimize scientific systems and processes to facilitate agency-wide strategic planning, implementation, review, and dissemination of science.
- Facilitate research, innovation, and collaborative partnerships to support new public health products and technologies.
- Increase the speed, manner, and transparency in which CDC science is shared with partners and the public.

Why We're Here

The Office of Science (OS) serves as CDC's primary scientific leadership and advising body. OS provides scientific guidance, policies, consultations, technical assistance, tools, and resources to CDC leadership and programs to help build scientific capacity and capability to support the agency's strategic efforts to promote health; prevent disease, injury, and disability; and prepare and respond to emerging health threats. OS promotes quality and integrity by ensuring CDC compliance with federal laws, regulations, policies, and standards in developing, implementing, and disseminating the highest quality science. OS facilitates scientific developments by providing guidance and fostering partnerships and collaborations. This includes strategic conceptualization of scientific activities, protocols, research, program, and products by providing guidance and fostering partnerships and collaborations to support public health research. OS supports the timely dissemination of actionable scientific information that can be used to improve public health policy and practice through scientific publications and ensuring open access to CDC data and publications.

How We Work

The Director of OS serves as the CDC Chief Science Officer. OS serves in mandated Agency official scientific quality, integrity, and compliance roles. Each OS office contributes to our mission of supporting scientific prioritization, development, implementation, and dissemination in distinct ways:

- **Office of the Director (OD)** oversees scientific integrity for the agency; convenes the CDC Excellence in Science Committee; leads and coordinates cross-cutting science priorities that address emerging needs and gaps; advises CDC leadership and staff on scientific issues including identification of strategic priorities that will have maximal impact on populations in greatest need, compliance with policies and protocols; facilitates efficient systems and processes to rapidly promote and recognize high-quality science and public health practice; and fosters innovation and collaboration through extramural research coordination.
- **Office of Public Health Ethics and Regulations (OPHER)** protects the rights and welfare of human participants in CDC-sponsored research; provides guidance and consultation to safeguard individual privacy and confidentiality; ensures ethical standards of public health practices; and ensures compliance and review of federal regulations related to research and data collection.
- **Office of Science Dissemination (OSD)** promotes access to quality, timely, and cross-cutting science to maximize public health impact, guide public health practice, and inform policy. This office publishes the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) Series to disseminate actionable scientific data with clear calls to action.
- **Office of Scientific Evidence and Recommendations (OSER)** works to maintain and improve the quality, transparency, credibility, and impact of guidelines and recommendations from CDC and the Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) by establishing standards for and supporting the development of systematic evidence reviews, recommendations, and guidelines.
- **Office of Science Quality and Library Services (OSQLS)** provides strategic oversight, leadership, and guidance for implementing and tracking CDC scientific clearance processes and systems. Consults throughout the scientific process from concept to review of high-profile CDC scientific products, as well as compliance with the Information Quality Act. Within OSQLS, the CDC Library provides access and support to research and literature searches and provides technical assistance and trainings to CDC staff on using research tools and systems.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the past year, OS continuously provided strategic scientific vision and leadership of CDC's scientific activities.

Increased the reach and impact of CDC science and publications

- 1.45 million downloads and 847,000 views of publications in CDC Stacks.
- Promoted nearly 3,000 CDC publications via Science Clips.
- Released 137 *MMWR*s and 4 CDC Vital Signs reports. 26 percent of MMWR reports rank in the top 1% of research.

Supported scientific research and public health action

- Completed nearly 700,000 online journal article requests and 9,000 article requests via CDC journal subscriptions and interlibrary loans.
- Supported four Community Guide systematic reviews.

Facilitated research and innovation

- Executed 262 technology transfer agreements and 13 technology license agreements.
- Executed 11 license agreements for influenza A(H5) bird flu virus to support response activities.
- Awarded 22 Small Business and Innovation Research grants totaling $8.9 million.

Safeguarded CDC scientific quality and integrity

- Scientific review and clearance of nearly 3,000 CDC-authored journal articles and 23 scientific guidelines and recommendations.
- Managed over 600 scientific regulatory and compliance consultations and actions.

Engaged in scientific collaboration

- Partnered with the other CDC offices (OCIO and OPHDST) to develop CDC's artificial intelligence (AI) guidance, which serves as the government-wide model for AI guidance.
- Internal review and evaluation of *MMWR* and the Concept Development and Approval Process to improve how we facilitate strategic science.

What's Needed

Public health threats and challenges can occur unexpectedly and require real-time scientific information to make rapid and effective public health decisions. The Office of Science leads CDC's efforts to drive strategic scientific prioritization to conceptualize, implement, review, and publish timely, actionable, and high-quality scientific information. OS is focused on three priority areas for FY25:

- **Excellence in Scientific Methods:** Providing guidance and support for rigorous and effective scientific study design, methods, and protocols that prioritize the most important scientific research questions for the populations we serve.
- **Facilitating Strategic Science and Public Health Research:** Ensuring CDC's science meets regulatory and ethical standards, leverages innovative approaches and partnerships, and facilitates the dissemination of findings that are translatable and accessible for public health action.
- **Aligning OS's Systems, Structures, and Resources:** Ensuring that OS's policies, systems, workforce, and budget are aligned to efficiently meet agency priorities and support the key services it provides for the entire agency including opportunities for process improvement, system modernization, and innovative partnerships.

Long-Term Opportunities

Office of Science seeks to facilitate and promote continuous innovation and improvement in approaches to public health science and practice to enable a One CDC approach to address new and emerging public health issues. OS will continue working with CDC leaders to:

- Engage and expand internal and external partnerships to identify public health priorities and advance CDC as a trusted global leader in public health science that improves the nation's health.
- Create a culture at CDC where scientific excellence is embedded within the entire scientific lifecycle and builds an evidence base for impactful and scalable interventions that improve health outcomes for all communities.
- Align a One CDC approach to scientific methods, systems, research processes, and extramural mechanisms to facilitate scientific innovation, translation, and timely dissemination to maximize the impact of public health programs.
- Expand and enhance our ability to improve the impact of our scientific information dissemination channels, including the *MMWR*, by using new technologies and other innovations.

For more information visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.