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NIA Establishes Six New Roybal Centers

The National Institute on Aging, or NIA, part of the National Institutes of Health, recently announced the establishment of six new Edward R. Roybal Centers for Research on Applied Gerontology.

The centers - at the University of Indiana, Princeton University, Stanford University, the RAND corporation, and the Oregon Health and Sciences University - will join the four existing Roybal Centers to conduct research on patient management; well-being; how to forecast the effects of medical breakthroughs; the effects of policy on the decisions people make medically, and economically; and new ways to use technology to measure and provide health care. The Roybal Centers are part of NIA's Behavioral and Social Research Program, which, along with basic biological and clinical research, addresses issues affecting the health and well-being of older people and their families.



Nobel Cause: **Kahneman** will head the Princeton Center.

APS Fellow and Nobel Laureate Daniel Kahneman will be the principal investigator at the Princeton center. Princeton will develop Kahneman's methods on introducing important psychological and social components to measure well-being on a more effective basis than traditional approaches.

Principal investigators at the other centers are Christopher M. Callahan at Indiana, Alan Garber at Stanford, Dana Goldman and Arie Kapteyn at the two RAND centers, and Jeffrey Kaye at Oregon. APS Fellow and Charter Member Laura L. Carstensen is co-PI with Garber at Stanford.

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"Building on a foundation of strong basic findings, this new group of Roybal Centers has the potential to develop highly innovative and practical solutions for a number of very real and pressing problems," said Richard Suzman, associate director of the NIA's Behavioral and Social Research Program. "These include how to help make better medical and health-related decisions and to develop a more accurate measure of quality of life that could be used to measure the impact of clinical interventions on people's well-being."

Authorized by Congress in 1993 and named for former House Select Committee on Aging Chair Edward R. Roybal, the centers are designed to move promising social and behavioral basic research findings out of the laboratory and into programs, practices, and policies that will improve the lives of older people and the capacity of society to adapt to societal aging. Established for five years, the centers will each receive a total of \$1.8 million in funding in their first year.

More information on these programs, as well as consumer-oriented publications on healthy aging, can be found on at www.nia.nih.gov.
