A R P A H
FACT SHEET

The [Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)](#) was established to support innovative biomedical research that would not be sustained through traditional means. In recent years, there have been remarkable advances in biomedical research, including the rapid development of the COVID-19 vaccines. ARPA-H seeks to expand momentum for such endeavors to allow for the evolution of ambitious scientific visions into health breakthroughs that will equitably benefit all Americans, when otherwise these projects would go unknown because of high cost, long timeframes, high risk, etc.

In April of 2021, the Biden administration proposed the creation of ARPA-H within the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Then in December of 2022, congress showed bipartisan support to fund ARPA-H with [$1.5 billion](#) in FY 2023.
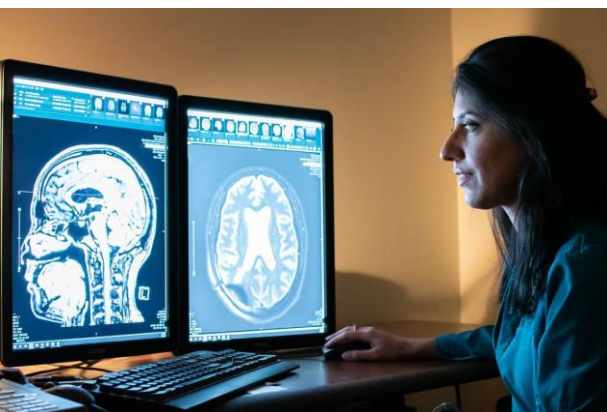
DIRECTOR

In September of 2022, President Biden announced that he would appoint Dr. Renee Wegrzyn as Director of this new program. Dr. Wegrzyn previously served both the [Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)](#) and the [Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Agency (IARPA)](#), both of which played an instrumental role in laying the groundwork for developing ARPA-H. Of her many notable accomplishments, Dr. Wegrzyn was significant in developing methods to combat infectious diseases (including COVID-19) through synthetic biology innovations. Therefore Dr. Wegrzyn has an extensive background in the sort of high-risk and high-reward projects that ARPA-H endeavors to endorse.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Given the recency of ARPA-H, funding opportunities have yet to be announced as they still seek to meet with stakeholders and hire Program Managers. This allows the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute (RNI) to join this new agency on the ground floor. ARPA-H is expected to be competitive, therefore, accelerating the involvement of the RNI will likely be fortuitous.

ARPA-H AND THE RNI

Innovative research at the RNI, makes the Institute a perfect candidate for this new Agency. Recent advances in treating substance use disorders and Alzheimer's Disease through progress in deep brain stimulation (DBS) and focused ultrasound have garnered significant [media interest](#). These projects combine technology and neuroscience in novel ways that defy traditional methods and present original possibilities for effective therapeutic treatment. ARPA-H has outlined trailblazing research for Alzheimer's Disease as a priority. The RNI excels in this field, with approaches that include focused ultrasound and a combination of transcranial magnetic stimulation and virtual reality.