

## Message from the Director

The [National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke's Summer Programs \(SIP\)](#) in the Neurological Sciences is a student research training program in brain and nervous system research. As one of 27 Institutes and Centers comprising the National Institutes of Health, [NINDS](#) has occupied a central position in the world of neuroscience for over 50 years. Our mission is to perform neuroscience research in order to improve our fundamental understanding of the how the nervous system functions and to translate new knowledge into treatments for those who suffer from neurological disorders.

Hundreds of disorders afflict the nervous system. Common killers and disabling such as stroke, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, autism, headache and muscular dystrophy are well known. The many rare disorders we study may be known only to the patients and families affected, their doctors, and scientists who study them. These are all tough problems and NINDS is constantly searching for dedicated young scientists with fresh ideas to help us achieve our mission.

This is a time of accelerating progress and increasing hope in the battle against brain disease. Advances in understanding the nervous system are beginning to pay off in the form of treatments for previously intractable problems including acute stroke, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease. At NINDS we are fortunate to have this first-rate research training program in the neurosciences which gives students the chance to learn and participate in hands-on clinical and basic neuroscience research with the hope that they will pursue careers in this burgeoning field.

Today's students are tomorrow's scientific investigators, conducting cutting-edge biomedical research that will lead to new ideas, theories, hypotheses, and treatments to help improve the neurologic health of the Nation.

Walter J. Koroshetz, M.D.  
Director, NINDS