

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



# *Overview of the U.S. EPA's ORD and STAR Program*

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U.S. EPA Workshop on Pharmaceuticals in  
the Environment

August 22, 2005

# *Briefing Overview*

- EPA's Office of Research and Development
- NCER's role in ORD and EPA
- How the program works
- STAR drinking water program
- Communicating our results

# Research and Development at EPA



- 1,950 employees
- \$700 million budget
- \$100 million extramural research grant program
- 13 lab or research facilities across the U.S.
- Credible, relevant and timely research results and technical support that inform EPA policy decisions



## ***Making decisions with sound science requires..***

- Relevant, high quality, cutting-edge research in human health, ecology, pollution control and prevention, economics and decision sciences
- Proper characterization of scientific findings
- Appropriate use of science in the decision process

## ***Research and development contribute uniquely to..***

- Health and ecological research, as well as research in pollution prevention and new technology
- In-house research and an external grants program
- Problem-driven and core research

# ORD Locations

**3 National Laboratories**  
**3 National Centers**  
**2 Offices**  
**13 Locations**

ORD Lab and Office Locations

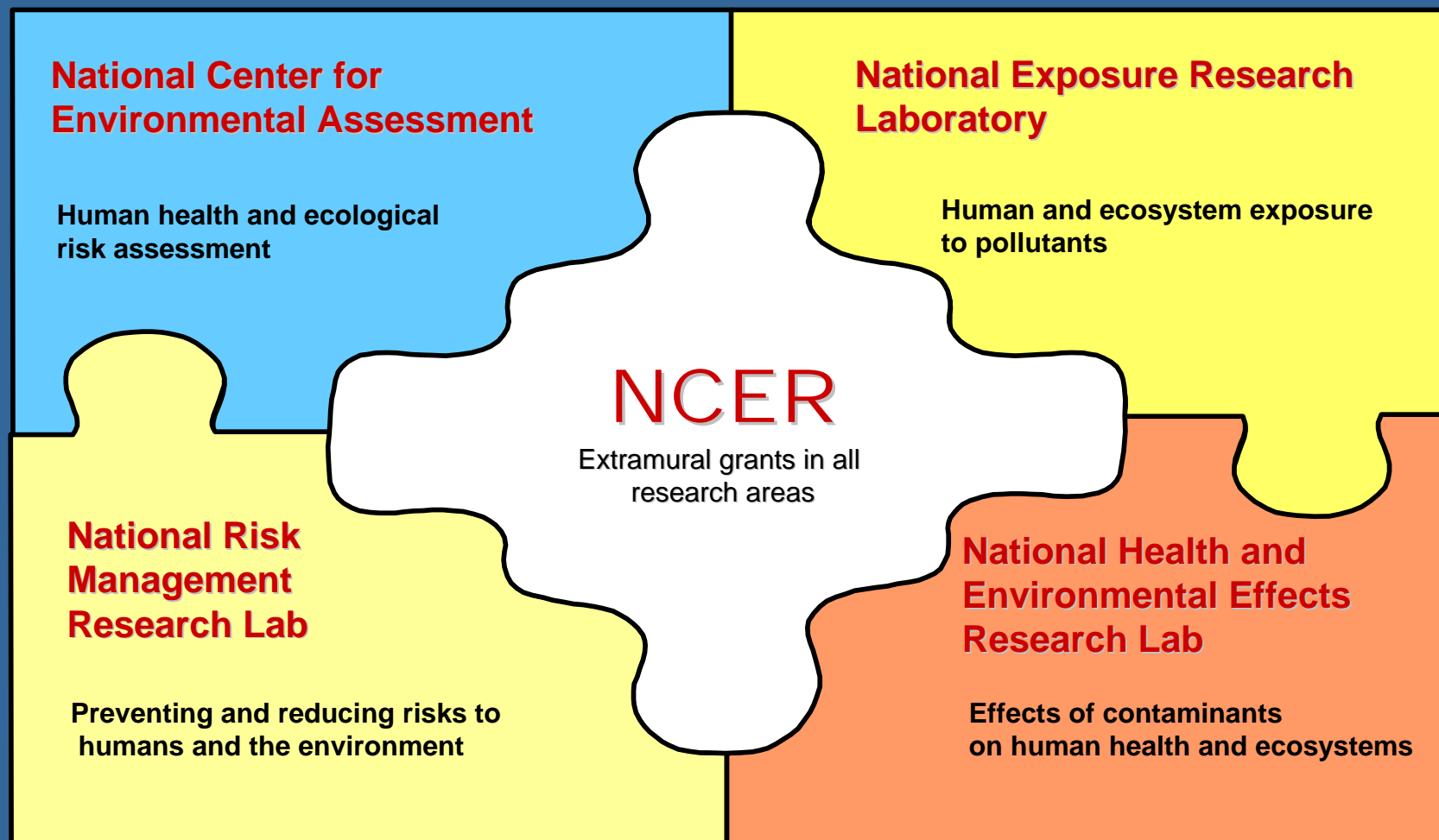


# High Priority Research Areas



- Human Health
- Particulate Matter
- Drinking Water
- Clean Water
- Global Change
- Endocrine Disruptors
- Ecological Risk
- Pollution Prevention
- Homeland Security

# ORD's Labs and Centers



## NCER's Role in ORD

- **ORD provides the leadership** in science and conducts most of EPA's research and development
- **NCER is one of three centers** that, together with three national laboratories, comprise the Office of Research and Development
- **NCER is ORD's extramural research arm**
- **ORD's 2005 research budget** is approx. **\$627** million, with **\$100 million** for competitive extramural grants (STAR)
- **ORD cooperates with other EPA offices including regional offices** (using the ORD Strategic Plan, national environmental research needs, relevance to agency mission, and research conducted in ORD's intramural program) to select topics for STAR solicitations

# NCER's Extramural Programs

- **Science To Achieve Results (STAR)**
  - *Targeted Research Grants through RFAs*
  - *Exploratory/Futures Grants*
  - *Graduate Fellowships*
  - *Competed Centers*
- **Earmarked Centers**
- **Hazardous Substance Research Centers**
- **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Contracts**

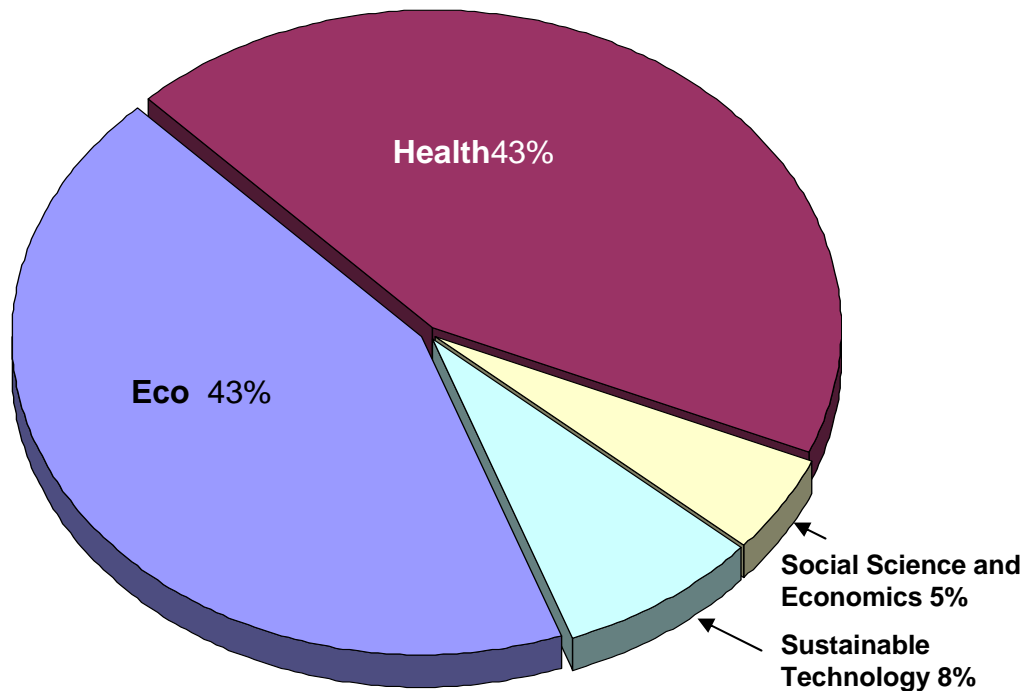
# EPA STAR Program Summary

- **Established** in 1995 as part of the overall reorganization of ORD
- **Mission:** include this country's universities and nonprofit groups in EPA's research program and ensure the best possible quality of science in areas of highest risk and greatest importance to the Agency
- **Issue** approximately 20-25 RFAs each year
- **Each year:** receive 3000-3500 grant applications
- **Award** about 100-175 research grants and 125-150 fellowships annually
- **Manage** about 1000 active research grants and fellowships

# EPA STAR Research Program

- **Goal-directed solicitation planning**
- **Significant cross-agency and interagency involvement with solicitation planning, writing, and review**
- **Competitive solicitations: award about \$100 million dollars annually**
- **Joint Solicitations with other Agencies**
- **External peer review**
- **Internal relevancy review: program office and regional input**
- **Fund highest priority projects**
- **Communicate research results through website, ORD laboratories, program office and regional meetings, and publications ([www.epa.gov/ncer](http://www.epa.gov/ncer))**

# NCER's High Priority Research Areas



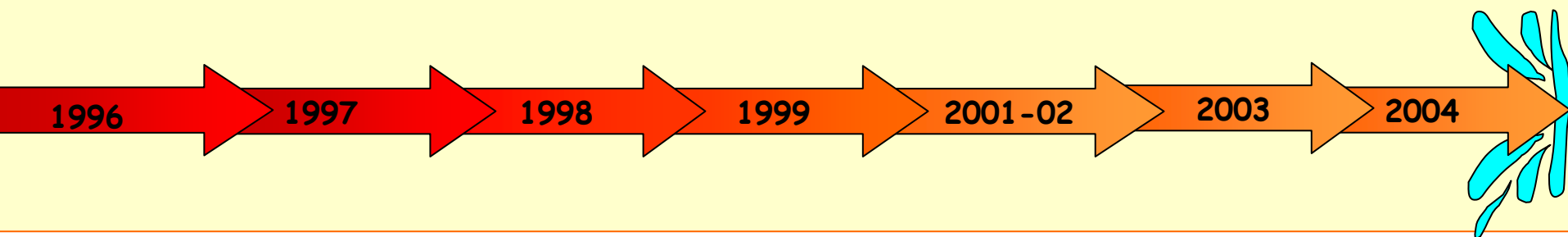
- Particulate Matter
- Drinking Water
- Clean Water
- Global Change
- Children's Health
- Endocrine Disruptors
- Ecological Risk
- Human Health
- Pollution Prevention and New Technologies
- Economics and Decision Sciences

## NCER's Drinking Water Program

- **Program began in FY 1996**
- **Funding levels between \$2.5-5.0 M/yr**
- **Since inception NCER had funded research in a wide variety of areas**
- **Research completed 3-4 years after award**
- **Solicitation preparation and Programmatic Reviews have extensive participation from OW, ORD, and Regional Offices**

# Funding History for Drinking Water Projects

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crypto (2)</li> <li>• DBPs (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crypto (2) HuCV</li> <li>• DBPs (7)</li> <li>• Arsenic (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCL pathogens (2)</li> <li>• DBPs (7)</li> <li>• Tx –Crypto &amp; DBPs (1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCL pathogens (8)</li> <li>• Crypto (1)</li> <li>• DBPs (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bank Filtration 4)</li> <li>• UV (1)</li> <li>• Crypto(1)</li> <li>• PPCPs (6)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCL chemicals (3)</li> <li>• Epi Studies (3)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Microarray (2)</li> <li>• Risks</li> <li>• Epi studies (2)</li> </ul>
<u>5 TOTAL</u>	<u>12 TOTAL</u>	<u>11 TOTAL</u>	<u>12 TOTAL</u>	<u>11 TOTAL</u>	<u>13 TOTAL</u>	<u>5 TOTAL</u>



# Communicating NCER Activities

- Online Access and Resources
  - Solicitations (RFAs)
  - Abstracts, Progress Reports, Final Reports, Bibliographies
  - Topical and Regional Research Summaries and Research Capsules
  - Powerful search window
- Publications
  - Synthesis Reports and Individual Summary Reports
  - State-of-Science Reports (SOSs)
  - SBIR abstracts and summaries

# Communicating NCER Activities

- Annual Science Progress Review Workshops
  - Workshop Proceedings
- Scientific Conferences
  - Participation in various sessions/symposia

# NCER Web Site:


<http://www.epa.gov/ncer>

EPA: ORD: National Center For Environmental Research - Microsoft Internet Explorer

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 **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

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NCER's mission is to support high-quality research by the nation's leading scientists that will improve the scientific basis for decisions on national environmental issues and help EPA achieve its goals. NCER, as a part of EPA's Office of Research and Development, supports leading edge extramural research in exposure, effects, risk assessment, and risk management. [Learn More About NCER's Mission.](#)

**Welcome to NCER's Environmental Research Grant Program Site**

### Research Competitions

NCER runs competitions for STAR grants, graduate and undergraduate fellowships, research contracts under the Small Business Innovative Research Program, and other research assistance programs.

### Research Results

NCER tracks progress and research results on funded research projects. View our results by searching our progress reports and investigator publications.

[\[Quick Guide\]](#) [\[How to Apply\]](#) [\[View open solicitations\]](#) [\[Find projects and results\]](#)

### Special Announcements

#### RFA Reductions in 2004 and 2005

The EPA has reduced the number of STAR Requests for Applications and associated grants for FY 2004.

Local intranet

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*Building a scientific foundation for sound environmental decisions*

- Acknowledgments
- Questions or Comments

***The End***