

**Richard J. Hodes, M.D.**

**Director, National Institute on Aging**

Richard J. Hodes, M.D., directs the research program of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health. A leading immunologist, Dr. Hodes was named Director of the NIA in 1993, to oversee studies of the basic, clinical, epidemiological and social aspects of aging.

Under Dr. Hodes' stewardship, the NIA budget has surpassed \$1 billion, reflecting increased public interest in aging as America and the world grow older. Dr. Hodes has devoted his tenure to the development of a strong, diverse, and balanced research program, focusing on the genetics and biology of aging, basic and clinical studies aimed at reducing disease and disability, including Alzheimer's disease and age-related cognitive change, and investigation of the behavioral and social aspects of aging. Ultimately, these efforts have one goal -- improving the health and quality of life for older people and their families.

Dr. Hodes is a graduate of Yale University and received his M.D., from Harvard Medical School. He completed training in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and in Oncology at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Hodes is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine. In 1995, he was elected as a member of The Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives; in 1997, he was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and in 1999, he was elected to membership in the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Hodes' research laboratory in the National Cancer Institute focuses on the cellular and molecular mechanisms that regulate the immune response, with major fields of current emphasis in: 1) the function of costimulation in T and B cell lineage development and function, and 2) regulation of telomere length, and its functional consequences, in both human and mouse model systems. Additional background is available at the lab's website, <http://ccr.cancer.gov/Staff/Staff.asp?StaffID=472>