

JULY 2018



What is the Health in Buildings Roundtable (HiBR)?

The Health in Buildings Roundtable (HiBR) is a multidisciplinary group interested in all aspects of the relationship between the built environment and occupant health. The organization includes members from the federal, state, and local governments and the private, academic, and professional sectors. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, people spend most of their time indoors, being exposed to materials and enclosures of human design. The main purpose of HiBR is to identify and collect research that addresses the effect of the built environment on human health; and to translate that research to inform building design, construction, and landscaping best practices to ensure that human health needs are fully supported. The long-term goal of HiBR is to make buildings healthier by building an effective and interdisciplinary organization to provide paradigm-shifting research, education, and policy on human-centered architecture.

HiBR can trace its origin back to the Healthy Building Initiative, which the NIH created in 1994. The Healthy Building Initiative supported the idea of viewing the built environment as a contributor to our health, which led to an in-depth review of building design and construction practices and the realization that little attention had been given to designs that support human health. The Healthy Building Initiative gathered knowledge from a variety of perspectives, including: public awareness, design guidelines, operations guidelines, monitoring of building performance and educational programs. The Healthy Building Initiative evolved into HiBR once several colleagues decided that a research perspective was necessary to ensure basic science could be translated into improved human health outcomes. Charles Blumberg, the Healthy Building Initiative Program Manager and senior architect in the NIH Division of Environmental Protection, called upon others from a variety of backgrounds to discuss the relationship between buildings and human health by joining together in a roundtable format. Since its inception in June of 2010, HiBR has held monthly teleconferences and membership has continued to grow.

The NIH has previously hosted conferences on the Bethesda campus to facilitate the HiBR mission. These conferences allowed HiBR members to gain the insight of many guests and visitors, while also building important relationships and attracting new members. The first HiBR conference occurred in 2013 and laid the groundwork for future conferences. This conference focused on defining healthy buildings, healthy people and healthy communities and sought to identify and understand the relationships between these concepts. The next conference, in 2014, built upon the previous discussion by looking at the impact of building materials on human health. The last conference, in 2015, explored the process required to translate research into best practices for designing healthy buildings.

The next HiBR conference will be in July 2018, titled "Health in Buildings for Today and Tomorrow: Making Connections – An interdisciplinary conference on Health and the Sustainable Built Environment." The conference takes place on July 19 and 20, 2018 at the Natcher Conference Center on the NIH Bethesda campus and will feature plenary lectures, group discussions and breakout sessions. Attendees will seek to move translational research forward by creating actionable strategies to improve the connection between the built environment and human health! You may register for the 2018 Conference on the HiBR website (while space remains). Please send any comments or questions regarding HiBR to hibr1@nih.gov.

TAKE ACTION



Join the "2018 Health in Buildings for Today and Tomorrow" Conference!

The Health in Buildings Roundtable (HiBR) is hosting a conference on July 19 and 20 at the Natcher Conference Center on the NIH Bethesda campus. Click the link below to view more information on the 2018 conference.

[LEARN MORE](#)

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Meet the Health in Buildings Roundtable Program Manager, Michelle Coley!

Michelle Coley is the new Health in Buildings Roundtable (HiBR) Program Manager at the NIH. Michelle takes over for Mr. Charles Blumberg, who recently retired from his position at the NIH.

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEMS TRAINING

Did you know? The average American spends 90% of their time indoors.¹ Given the large amount of time spent indoors, buildings and the built environment have a large impact on human health. To learn more about the sustainability initiatives at the NIH, please visit the [NEMS Training webpage](#) to view a short (20 minute) NIH environmental awareness training video.