

## NIH to develop therapeutics for nicotine addiction

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**Singapore:** The National Institutes of Health (NIH), US, has launched three projects that will focus on development of therapeutics for fragile X syndrome, nicotine addiction, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

These projects are funded through the NIH Blueprint Neurotherapeutics Network which provides access to a variety of drug development resources.

The purpose of the NIH Blueprint is to provide in-depth research capabilities to increase the success rate of innovative drug discovery efforts. The program uses a virtual pharma model to provide researchers with access to support and resources that have been traditionally available to large pharmaceutical companies.

"We are excited about the opportunity to apply cutting-edge science to the pursuit of novel treatments for these debilitating disorders" said Dr Rebecca Farkas, program director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), Office of Translational Research, NIH.