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Dr. Downing is Director of the Office of Technology and Industrial Relations (OTIR) in the Office of the Director at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institutes of Health. In this role, he facilitates the collaboration among Federal, academic, and private biomedical research sectors to support technology development that will yield innovative diagnostic, detection, and targeted treatment strategies for cancer. Through the OTIR, he supervises the administration of grants and contracts for programs in nanotechnology, biosensors, therapeutic delivery systems, and new technology platforms and imaging systems. He currently serves on several committees, including the NCI-FDA Interagency Oncology Task Force and the Biomedical Information Science and Technology Consortium.

Dr. Downing began his career at the NIH in 1994 as a fellow at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, and subsequently served in the Office of Science Policy and Planning as a health science policy analyst and deputy director. Today, he continues to lead the implementation of training and programs that support the research policy goals of the NIH.

Dr. Downing earned his medical degree from Michigan State University and his Ph.D. in pharmacology from the University of Kansas. He completed his residency in pediatrics and fellowship in neonatology before joining the faculty of the University of Missouri-Kansas City in the Department of Neonatology at The Children's Mercy Hospital.

Dr. Downing is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in pediatrics and neonatology— perinatal medicine. He sits on the editorial board of the Journal of Maternal-Fetal Investigation and is Associate Editor of Disease Biomarkers. He has published numerous articles and research in the fields of pharmacology and medicine and has contributed to three books.