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Dr. Deal is Chief of NIAID's STD Branch, which is responsible for basic research through product development and clinical trials for Sexually Transmitted and Reproductive Tract infections and syndromes. Prior to joining NIAID, Dr. Deal was at the Food and Drug Administration in the Office of Vaccines Research and Review, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research. She is a microbiologist who received her Ph.D. at the University of Illinois.