

# Cancer Research Delivers Breakthroughs & Hope

## *Protect NIH and NCI Funding*



The National Cancer Institute (NCI), one of 27 institutes and centers within the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is a central foundation for cancer research activities across the United States and abroad. For decades, NCI-funded research has played a role in every major cancer prevention, detection and treatment advance, while also delivering scientific breakthroughs for many other diseases.

Despite cancer's complexity, recent genomic discoveries and an increased understanding of how to harness the body's immune system to fight cancer are so promising that we are beginning to deliver more personalized, precise, and less invasive cancer care. The remarkable returns on our continuing research investment are clear:

- Cancer death rates have been steadily declining for men and women overall, and for most racial and ethnic populations in the United States. From 1991 to 2010, the greatest drop in cancer death rates, 55 percent, was seen among African American men aged 40 years to 49 years. Notably, African American men experienced the largest drop within every 10-year age group.
- We now have nearly 14.5 million cancer survivors in the U.S. – living proof of the gains we've made. Today, two-thirds of patients survive five years or longer after their cancer diagnosis, compared to only half of patients forty years ago.

Despite these successes, progress in certain areas has not kept pace. Moreover, the number of Americans diagnosed with cancer, particularly among the aging Baby Boomer population, is expected to grow dramatically over the next decade with more than 2.1 million cancer diagnoses projected annually by 2025. These trends signal a clear call for action to address specific areas of need and opportunity, including:

- Developing early detection tools and better treatments for those cancers that remain most lethal.
- Addressing existing disparities in health outcomes by putting our cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment knowledge to use in all populations.
- Improving quality of care and reducing suffering by advancing pain and symptom management, and other research supporting quality of life for cancer patients, survivors, and their loved ones.

## Increased Funding Will Fuel Even More Research and Progress

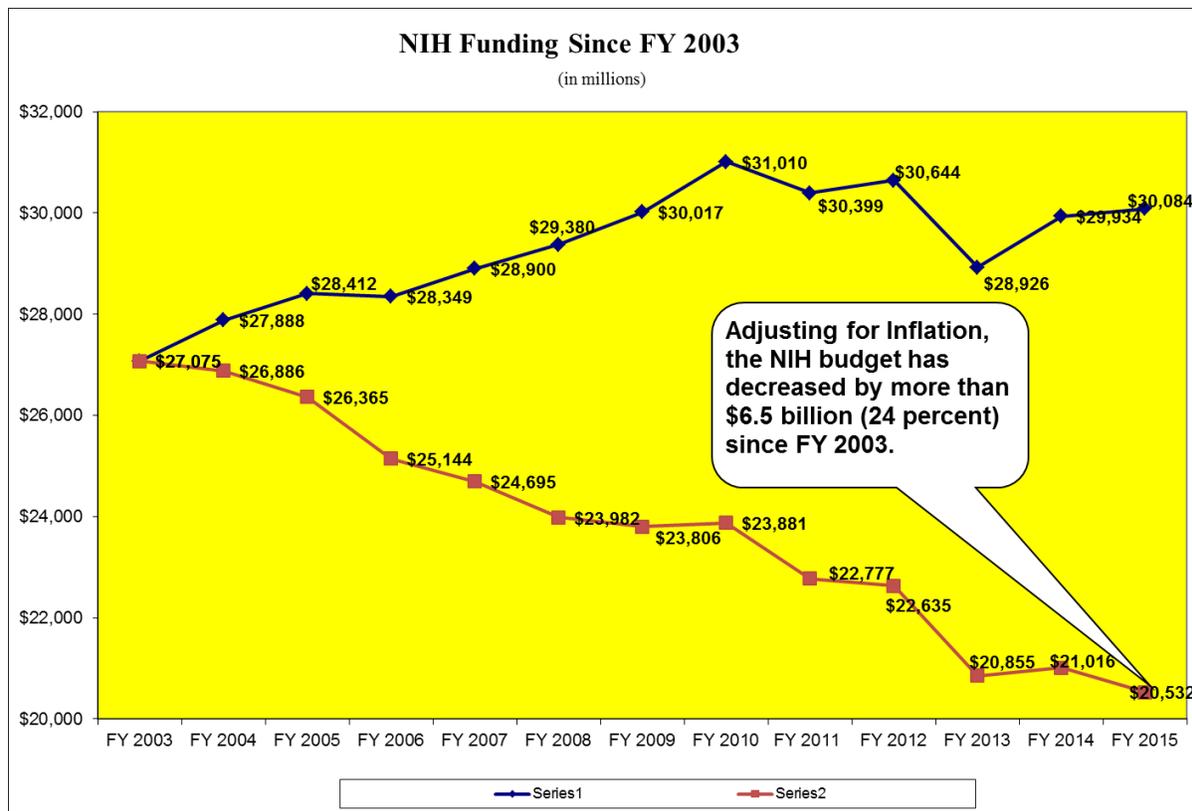
We must build on these critical NIH investments to realize the promise emerging from this funding. In 2014 alone, this research support delivered numerous important clinical advances including:

- **Addition of docetaxel to initial hormone therapy substantially improves survival in men with metastatic, hormone-sensitive prostate cancer:** The findings of this NCI-led study suggest inclusion of docetaxel in first-line therapies for men with advanced disease who are healthy enough for chemotherapy, especially those with extensive disease spread.<sup>i</sup>
- **First-line bevacizumab plus chemotherapy and cetuximab plus chemotherapy provide similar survival benefit for patients with metastatic colorectal cancer:** This large U.S.-funded head-to-head comparison trial answers a long-standing question about the relative effectiveness of four common regimens, offering patients and providers new reassurance as they face treatment decisions.<sup>ii</sup>

## Economic Benefits to Communities

NIH funding stimulates local economies. More than 80 percent of its budget funds almost 50,000 extramural grants to more than 300,000 researchers at over 2,500 universities, medical schools, and other research institutions in every state and around the world. The impact is clear. In fiscal year 2012, alone, for example:

- Each dollar of NIH's \$22.02 billion extramural research investment generated more than twice as much (\$57.8 billion) in new state business activity in the form of increased output of goods and services.
- NIH grants and contracts created and supported more than 402,000 jobs that generated substantial wages in the 50 states, and led to the creation of additional jobs in the private sector (e.g., pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and medical lab testing jobs).<sup>iii</sup>



## FY 2016 Funding for NIH and NCI

To ensure that the research being supported today yields the cancer treatments of tomorrow, Congress must sustain and expand the support it is currently providing. ACS CAN urges Congress to prioritize funding for medical research and provide the NIH with a budget of \$33 billion, including at least \$5.4 billion for NCI.

<sup>i</sup> American Society of Clinical Oncology, June 1, 2014 (<http://www.asco.org/press-center/major-advances-breast-prostate-and-colorectal-cancer-treatment-featured-asco%E2%80%99s-annual>)

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iii</sup> United for Medical Research ([www.unitedformedicalresearch.com](http://www.unitedformedicalresearch.com))