

Cancer Research: The Promise of Hope



Provide funding increases of at least:

- **20% (\$1 billion) for NCI**
- **10% (\$21 million) for NCMHD**
- **10% (\$3 billion) for NIH**

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) – one of the 27 institutes and centers that comprise the National Institutes of Health (NIH) – is the foundation for the nation’s cancer research efforts. NCI-funded research has played a role in every major advance in the fight against cancer over the last four decades.

Nearly 80% of NCI’s annual funding supports external scientists and researchers at 650 universities, hospitals, Cancer Centers, and other sites across the US and in more than 20 countries, including many who conduct the clinical trials necessary to translate basic scientific findings into cancer treatments. In 2008, NCI invested nearly \$2.1 billion to support of over 5,380 investigator-initiated Research Project Grants.

Today, researchers are making remarkable progress in every area of cancer research - prevention, detection, treatment and care – moving discoveries from the laboratories to the bedside. Each year, NCI supports over 1,350 clinical trials, enrolling nearly 34,000 new patients each year. The results of our research investment are clear:

- Both incidence and death rates for all cancers combined are decreasing for both men and women, driven largely by declines in some of the most common types of cancer and reflecting real gains in prevention, early detection, and treatment.
- More effective therapies have led to improved outcomes for nearly 11 million cancer survivors living in the US – living proof of our progress in diagnosing certain cancers at an earlier stage and improvements in treatment and symptom management.

Over the last 30 years, our nation’s investment in cancer has been about \$16 per American per year.

Yet for too many cancer patients, survivors, and their loved ones, our progress against certain cancers and managing the pain, symptoms, and side effects associated with most cancers and their treatments has been incremental at best. In fact nearly half of all cancer deaths are caused by cancers for which the survival rate still remains below 50 percent. Some of the specific areas of need include:

- Lung and pancreatic cancer, the 1st and 4th leading causes of cancer related deaths, still lag far behind, with survival rates that have not substantially improved in more than 30 years.
- Converse to other trends, incidence rates for Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and Multiple Myeloma are increasing.
- Ovarian, kidney, and several other cancers still lack early detection tools that help diagnose and treat earlier to deliver better health outcomes.
- Even for cancers that have early detection tools, we are not putting that knowledge to use in all populations, contributing to significant health disparities, particularly in medically underserved groups

Research Progress and the Promise of Personalized Medicine

In the past year alone, cancer has seen stunning advances to address hard-to-treat cancers and reduce cancer recurrence, including the following findings:

- Adding a certain targeted therapy (Eribitux) to initial chemotherapy increased overall survival by up to 21 percent in certain patients with advanced non-small cell lung cancer. Lung cancer is the biggest cancer killer in the US, taking 160,000 lives each year.
- The US Food and Drug Administration approved new cancer treatments for managing chronic lymphocytic leukemia and metastatic breast cancer, adding important therapeutic options that are likely to have significant impact on patient care.
- Providing a bone-strengthening drug to premenopausal women undergoing hormonal therapy reduced recurrence risk of early-stage breast cancer by 36 percent compared with hormonal therapy alone.

**For More Information Visit
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Our National Research Investment Drives Economic Growth in the US Healthcare Industry

NIH is America's leading medical research agency and the foremost biomedical research institute in the world. Remarkable medical achievements have flowed from NIH-supported research, delivering dramatic improvements in health in the US and around the globe.

NIH funding is the very lifeblood of our nation's biomedical research enterprise, accounting for nearly 80 percent of all funding for non-profit medical research in the US. This research:

- Leads to US patents that fuel the biotechnology industry, promoting our competitiveness in the global biomedical market and spurring economic growth.
- Supports training of our biomedical research workforce, the very foundation of sustaining our knowledge-based economy.
- Is the engine for innovation that is critical to driving down healthcare costs and improving productivity and quality of life in the US.

Economic Benefits to Communities

NIH funding also stimulates local economies. More than 85 percent of its budget funds over 30,000 extramural research grants and contracts taking place at universities, medical research centers, hospitals, and research institutes in all 50 states.

The impact is clear. In fiscal year 2007, alone, for example:

- Each dollar of NIH's nearly \$23 billion investment generated more than twice as much (\$50.5 billion) in new state business activity in the form of increased output of goods and services. This amounts to a \$2.21 return for every NIH dollar spent.
- NIH grants and contracts created and supported more than 350,000 jobs that generated wages in excess of \$18 billion in the 50 states, plus another 800,000 supporting jobs created in the private sector (e.g., pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and medical lab testing jobs).¹

**“If you think medical research
is expensive, try disease.”**

***Mary Lasker,
Healthcare Advocate***

Cancer Funding at a Glance

From 2003 through 2008, NIH and NCI budget's declined dramatically, when accounting for inflation. After five years of cancer research funding that failed to keep pace with inflation, cancer research is now reemerging as a national priority. The President has laid out the charge of having a research program that will “have the greatest impact on developing innovative diagnostics, treatments, and cures for cancer.” Ultimately, success in the fight against cancer is measured by a reduction in incidence and mortality, and improving the quality of life for those living with cancer. This success is directly tied to sustaining our commitment to adequate funding.

FY 2010 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 they are currently providing. OVAC urges Congress to increase the NIH budget to \$33.3 billion in the FY 2010 LHHHS appropriations bill, including \$6 billion for the NCI and \$227 million for NCMHD.

¹ *In Your Own Backyard. How NIH Funding Helps Your States Economy.* Families USA Foundation (2008) (Report available at www.familiesusa.org).

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