



**Strategic Leadership to Accelerate
the Prevention and Cure of Cancer
The Vital Role and Responsibility of the AACR**

AACR Report to the National Cancer Advisory Board

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Goals of My Presentation Today

- Describe the AACR of today – its mission, characteristics and foci
- Explain how the AACR carries out its role of accelerating progress
- Discuss the need for strategic leadership to meet the 2015 Challenge Goal

What is the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

- Established in 1907 – the oldest and largest cancer research organization in the world
- 22,000 members from over 60 countries (projected to 25,000 by 2006)
 - Cancer researchers
 - Investigators-in-training
 - Related health professionals
 - Undergraduate and high school students
 - Survivors and advocates
- Nonmember constituency of >80,000 scientists worldwide

AACR Core Characteristics and Special Niche

- World's collective brain trust in cancer research and all cancer-related fields
 - Basic, translational, and clinical research, population science
- Consistent focus on cutting-edge science and scientific programs
- Authoritative source of the latest cancer research findings
- Size, diversity, and international scope of the membership
- Networking, mentorship, and cross-disciplinary interactions
- Dedicated service of its members

AACR's Overarching Strategies for Accelerating Progress Against Cancer

- Creativity, innovation, and leadership in science and technology
- Education and training of scientists, and related workforce issues
- Communication of science to a myriad of constituencies
- Partnerships with other sectors and organizations
- Education of the public about cancer research
- Education of cancer survivors and advocates
- Science policy, government relations, and advocacy

AACR's Leadership in Science and Technology

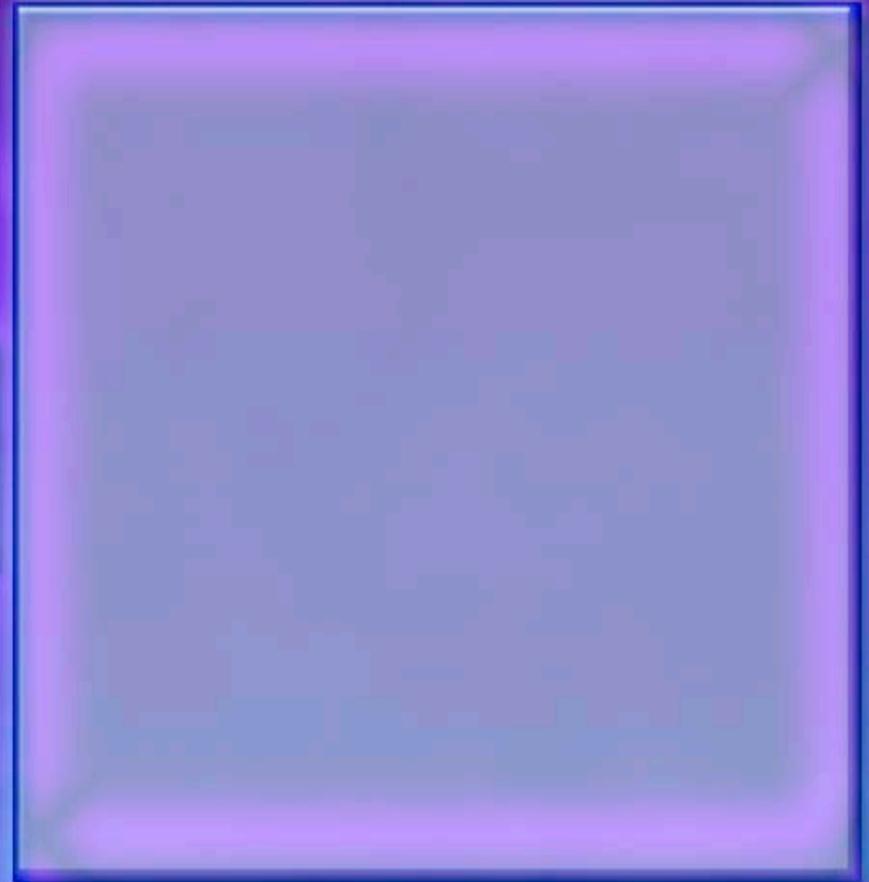
- Identification of promising new research areas and intervention opportunities of the highest priority
- Recommendation of new players and collaborations
- Integration of science and discovery with application to the clinic, i.e.,
 - How can we develop better models?
 - How can we accelerate the testing of new compounds?
 - What tools do we need to facilitate technology transfer?
 - What is the next wave of targets?
- Consideration of new constructs in the field to speed cancer drug discovery and development

Representative Mechanisms for Maximizing Scientific Impact

- High-quality AACR annual meetings, special conferences, educational workshops, and print and online publications
- Scientific retreats and think tanks of experts and opinion leaders
- Scientific Committees, Task Forces, Working Groups, Councils, Scientific Advisory Board in formation
- Programs in association with other organizations and with cancer survivors and advocates
- Representation on NCI scientific advisory boards and program review groups

Growth Areas Identified in Basic Science

- Genomics and proteomics
- Epigenetics
- Imaging
- Structural and chemical biology
- RNAi therapies
- Bioinformatics
- Nanotechnology
- Systems biology
- Other advanced technologies



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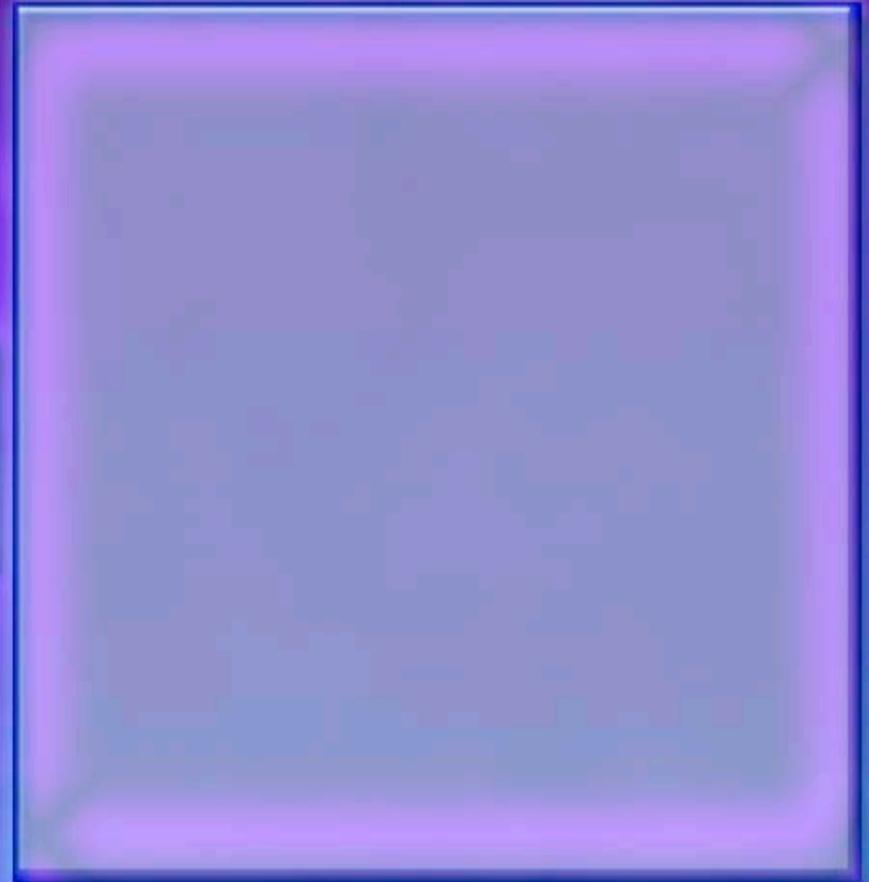
- Special Conferences on Oncogenomics
- First Special Conference on Epigenetics
- State-of-the-art meetings on imaging
- Cross-disciplinary Task Forces
- Scientific Working Groups
- Presentations at annual meetings
- Partnerships with other societies

Cross-disciplinary Task Forces To Discover Areas of High Priority

- Aging and Cancer
- Pediatric Oncology
- Tumor Immunology
- Behavioral Science
- Prevention
- Hematological Malignancies
- Others pending

Growth Areas Identified in Translational Research

- Mechanistic-based therapies (with new understanding of signaling pathways and pathophysiology)
- Accelerated translational clinical trials based on surrogate or intermediate markers
- Individualized therapies based upon predictors of response
- Validation of diagnostic and prognostic tests



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- Educational Workshops for investigators-in-training
- AACR Workshop on Molecular Biology in Clinical Oncology
- Cross-disciplinary Special Conferences
- AACR-NCI-EORTC Conference series on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics
- Research Fellowships and Career Development Awards
- Programs to educate clinicians about cancer biology
- Advocacy for funding, infrastructure, and improved reward system
- Collaborations with NCI, FDA, and industry

Growth Areas Identified in Clinical Research

- Novel clinical trial designs to maximize patient benefit
- Increase in patient accrual with emphasis on special populations
- Regulatory reform



Growth Areas Identified in Clinical Research

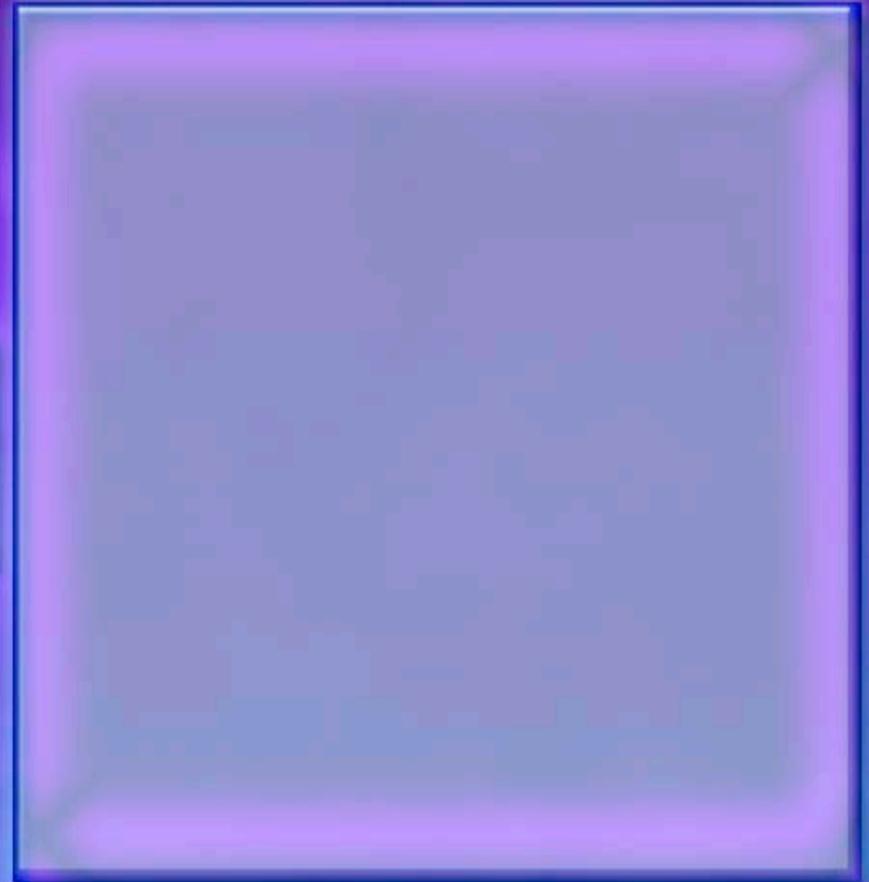
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- AACR-ASCO Workshops in Clinical Cancer Research
- AACR-NCI-EORTC Conference Series on Molecular Targets and Cancer Therapeutics
- Publication of the journal Clinical Cancer Research
- Annual meeting sessions
- Clinical Cancer Research Committee
- Task forces
- Advocacy
- FDA-ASCO-AACR Panels

Growth Areas Identified in Epidemiology and Prevention

- Chemoprevention and new agent development
- Infection and cancer
- Behavioral science
- Molecular epidemiology, SNPs



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- Annual AACR International Cancer Prevention Meeting
- FDA-NCI-AACR chemoprevention meetings
- Task Force on Prevention
- Task Force on Behavioral Science
- International cross-disciplinary conferences
- Educational Workshops
- Molecular Epidemiology Working Group

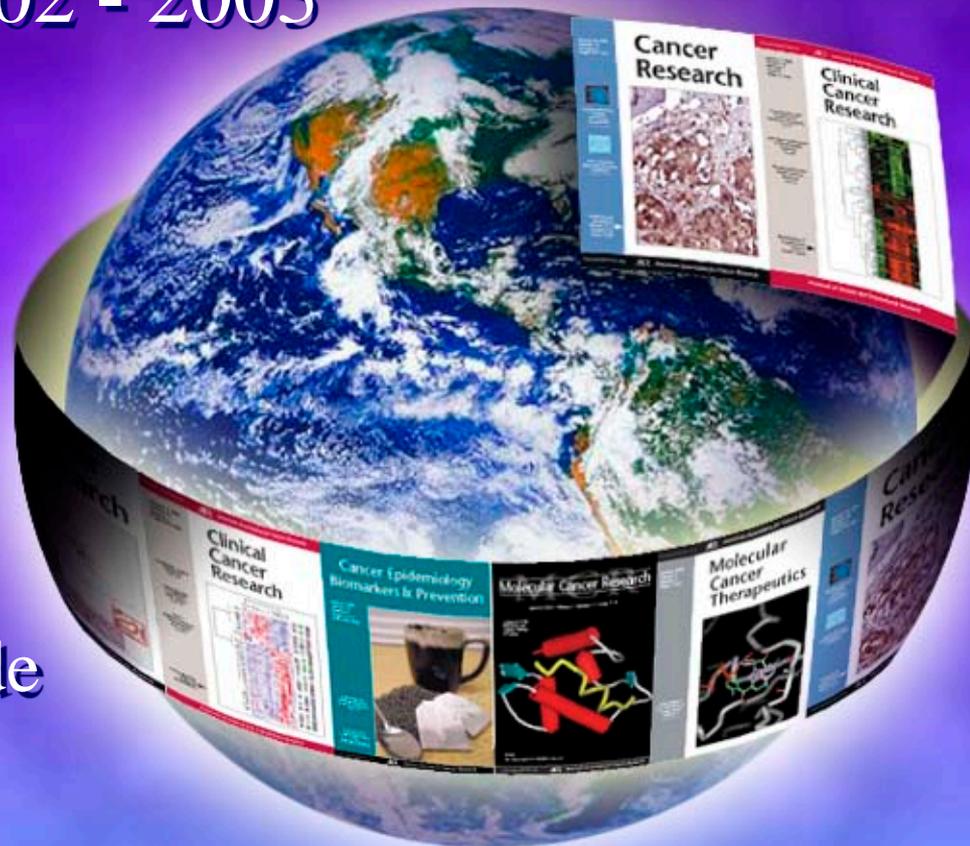
Education and Training of Scientists and Workforce Issues

- Educational Workshops
 - Pathobiology of Neoplasia
 - Clinical Cancer Research – U.S., Europe, Asia
 - Molecular Biology in Clinical Oncology
 - Others pending
- Task Force to address workforce issues
 - Consider new scientific disciplines needed in cancer research
 - Re-tooling of senior scientists in new areas of emphasis
 - Physician-scientist crisis
- Funding of Fellowships and Career Development Awards
- Active Associate Member Council

Electronic Access – Globalization of Cancer Information

AACR Journals 2002 - 2003

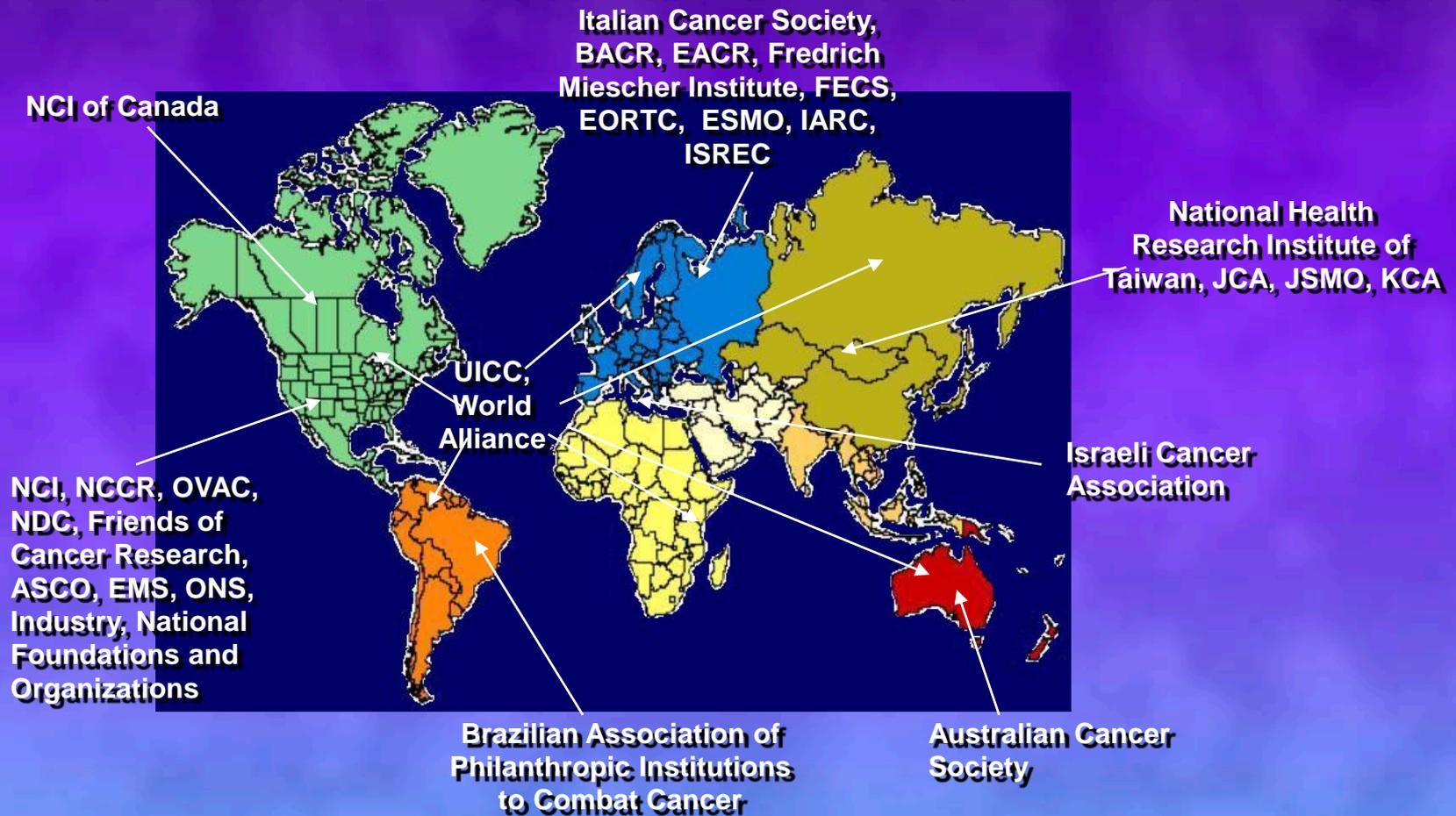
- Worldwide Submissions Up 15%
- 2003 Pages Published – 17,000
- Online Pages Accessed Worldwide
 - 2002: 4M
 - 2003: 8M



AACR: A Catalyst for Advances in the Prevention and Cure of Cancer



Worldwide Partnerships



Education of the Public

Increasing expectations of the public for:

- Cancer prevention and cure
- Quality healthcare/quality of life
- Current information
 - Scientific
 - Medical
 - Access to clinical trials
 - Science policy
- Progress and return on investment in cancer research

The AACR Public Forum



Progress in the Nation's War on Cancer

The 8th Annual AACR Public Forum Highlighting the Latest Advances in Cancer Prevention, Detection and Treatment

Saturday, March 27, 2004
Rosen Centre Hotel
Orlando, Florida

Ask-the-Experts Sessions

- One-on-one interaction between the public and leading scientists
- Information about cancer and clinical trials
- All organ sites and subfields of cancer research are highlighted



AACR Scientist ↔ Survivor Program



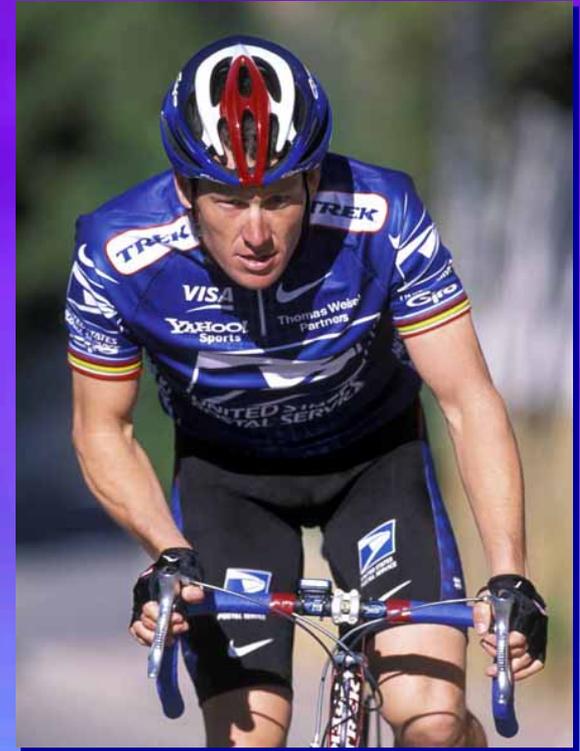
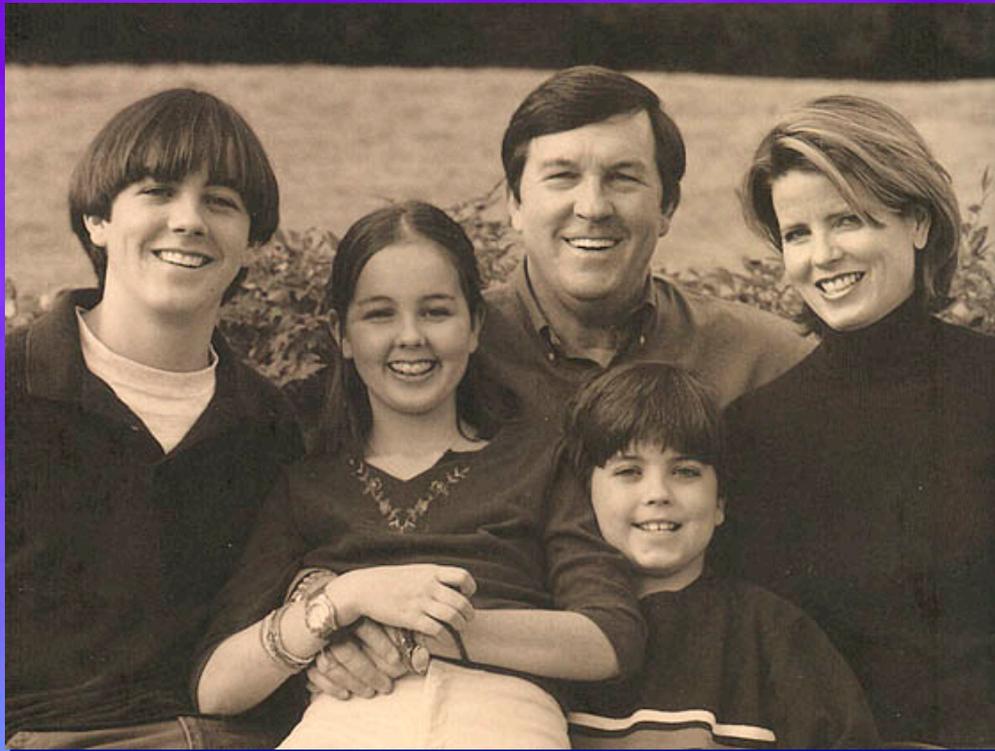
**The Fifth Annual
Scientist ↔ Survivor
Program**

A Partnership to Accelerate Progress Against Cancer

April 4 - 9, 2003 • Metro Convention Centre • Toronto, Canada

The Power of Survivors and Organizations Working Together

Making Cancer A National Priority



Agenda for the AACR-LAF 2004 Campaign

- Increase public awareness about cancer, especially among the 2004 Presidential candidates
- Gather new data on how the public feels about cancer, progress, and funding
- Encourage private sector investment in cancer research – especially new therapeutic and preventive agents

AACR-Lance Armstrong Foundation National Poll – December 2003

Key questions:

- How do the American people feel about cancer?
- Is their fear of cancer rational?
- What are we – as a nation – doing about cancer?
- What are the costs of cancer?
- What are the benefits of a dramatic reduction in cancer and cancer deaths?

AACR-LAF National Poll Results

What do you fear the most?

Getting into a serious car accident	19%
Being the victim of a serious crime	12%
Getting cancer	30%
Being the victim of a terrorist attack	13%
All of the above	9%
None	12%

Coincides with November 2003 Gallup Poll indicating that 63% of Americans say they are “very” or “somewhat concerned” with getting cancer.

AACR-LAF National Poll Results

Which of the following diseases or medical conditions concerns you most?

Cancer	34%
Alzheimer's Disease	14%
Heart Disease	16%
HIV/AIDS	9%
Diabetes	9%
All of the above	9%
None	5%

AACR-LAF National Poll Results

Would you favor or oppose increasing Federal funding for cancer research?

Strongly favor	52%
Somewhat favor	28%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	8%
Don't know	4%

AACR-LAF National Poll Results

We presently spend \$4.6B funding the work of the NCI.
What would you be willing to spend on cancer research?

Amount of Funding	Very Willing	Somewhat Willing	Not Willing
\$8 Billion	40%	35%	18%
\$10 Billion	30%	33%	27%
\$15 Billion	23%	24%	41%
\$20 Billion	19%	20%	50%
As much as it takes to find a cure, even if it means raising taxes or cutting other programs	17%	29%	45%

AACR-LAF National Poll Results

40% of all living Americans will have cancer in their lifetimes, increasing to 50% by 2010. Are we doing enough to fund cancer research?

YES, we are doing enough 19%

NO, we are not doing enough 72%

Don't know/NA 9%

AACR Science Policy, Government Relations, and Advocacy

- Advocate for increased appropriations
- Communicate with the Administration about opportunities in cancer research
- Educate legislators and policymakers about the value of cancer research and the economic and human cost of cancer
- Provide expert advice on science policy issues, e.g., genetic testing, tissue access, biomarkers, stem cell research, etc.
- **Ensure that cancer remains a national priority**

Strategic Leadership Needed To Meet the 2015 Challenge Goal

- National Cancer Institute has “raised the bar” for the whole cancer community
- AACR stands ready to address this challenge with the
 - Expert guidance of its multidisciplinary membership
 - Proactive strategies for meeting the scientific needs
- Further collaborations between NCI and AACR will yield synergies and address the public’s concern for greater and faster progress

What Does the Public Expect from AACR and NCI?

- Determine what is needed to reduce cancer incidence, mortality, and suffering due to cancer
- Build the necessary systems and structures
- Lead the charge to the conquest of cancer
- **Finish the job!!!**

We Have Achieved Enormous Progress from the Nation's Investment in Cancer Research

“Now, with a sharp focus on our goal and a wise application of continued budgetary support, we can harness advances in discovery and development to deliver interventions for preventing cancer; detecting it early; and eliminating, halting, or reversing its progression to a lethal phenotype.”

Andrew C. von Eschenbach, M.D.
Director, National Cancer Institute
December 2003 Covering Letter to
FY 2005 Bypass Budget Proposal

2003 IOM Report on NIH Organizational Structure

- Contains some provisions about NIH reorganization clearly worthy of consideration
- Recommendation #12, which asks for a reassessment of the provisions of the National Cancer Act of 1971, must be addressed immediately by the cancer community because:
 - It fails to recognize the enormous progress made since 1971 because of the national emphasis given to cancer in this country
 - It has the potential to undermine future advances and erode the facilitative authorities of the NCI Director
- **The National Cancer Act must be retained and further strengthened to meet the demands of the public and effectively coordinate cancer research!**

AACR Believes Strongly in the Need for a New National Cancer Act

- Update and strengthen the 1971 provisions and authorities
- Define contemporary goals of the National Cancer Program
- Place continued emphasis on cancer as a major health threat to the nation
- **Give the NCI a leadership role in major parts of the NIH roadmap because of its expertise, experience, and resources**
- **Give the NCI what it needs in funding, flexibility, and authorities to conquer cancer!!**

AACR Strategic Leadership to Meet the 2015 Challenge Goal

- Continue its vital role of
 - Stimulating creativity and innovation in science
 - Educating and training the next generation of cancer researchers
 - Offering programs and publications that will meet the needs of the cancer community
 - Engaging in partnerships with other sectors and organizations that will accelerate progress
- **Advocate for adequate funding for the National Cancer Program at this time of great scientific opportunities**
- **Strengthen AACR-NCI collaborations**

Proposal for Joint NCI-AACR Think Tanks

- Update progress toward the 2015 Challenge Goal
- Share information and ideas
- Discuss priorities in cancer research
- Conceptualize new programs needed
- Translate research into practice and patient benefit

“What is Past is Prologue”

- The remarkable pace of scientific discovery has already changed the face of cancer
- We are now poised to engage in “breakthrough thinking” about the next wave of progress in the prevention and cure of cancer
- With great power comes great responsibility

NCI and AACR Leading the Way to the Prevention and Cure of Cancer

- Complexity and scale of the cancer problem mandate that we respond with urgency and energy
- The public demands that we work to conquer cancer at the earliest possible time
- The AACR values its partnership with NCI and will work tirelessly to achieve this goal