

Report from the Acting Director

*Douglas R. Lowy
Acting Director, National Cancer Institute,
National Institutes of Health*



NCAB Virtual Meeting
September 16, 2015

USPSTF: Aspirin for Cancer Prevention

- Draft report recommends low dose aspirin for ages 50 to 59 to prevent colorectal cancer
- Some unanswered questions:
 - Benefits in those >59
 - Mechanism of action
 - Biomarkers predictive of benefit

Status of some new award types

- Outstanding investigator award
 - Initial awards have been made: 64.
 - Reissuance has been published: minor changes (e.g., page length for research strategy reduced from 12 pages to 6 pages)
- Some other types of award under consideration: Research Specialist; Graduate Student to Post-doc

Towards Increased funding for NCI Cancer Center P30 Core Grants

- Working group meeting of cancer center directors: October 9; Chairs Stan Gerson and Chi Dang
- Goal: To develop a plan that can be presented at joint NCAB/BSA meeting in December
- Full funding would be contingent on an increased NCI appropriation for FY16

Focus on specific cancers with health disparities (high-risk populations)

- Workshop: November 11-13, in Atlanta, just prior to AACR conference on cancer health disparities: biology, life style, access/utilization
- Co-chairs: Edith Mitchell (Thomas Jefferson University), Lisa Richardson (CDC), Sandy Markowitz (Case-Western Reserve)
- New NCI Center for Research Strategy; Michelle Bennett, director; focus on trans-NCI activities that span scientific disciplines (e.g., health disparities)

Pilot program for Middle School Students in Baltimore

- Administered through University of Maryland Cancer Center
- Developed by Sanya Springfield, Director, NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities
- Select ~30 students from 3 schools to learn about biology, cancer, and research: activities at school and at Cancer Center

Precision Medicine Initiative - Oncology

- President Obama has proposed \$70 million in his FY16 budget for PMI-Oncology
- Preclinical models & bio-informatics: July workshop on organoids and reprogrammed cell lines (Lou Staudt); September 30 FNLAC presentation & discussion (Jim Doroshow & Warren Kibbe)
- MATCH trial update, September 10 meeting with White House officials: Jim Doroshow



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