

**BOARD OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS  
NCI LISTENS Q & AS**

**Based on most frequently asked questions from research community attending NCI  
Listens sessions at national meetings from 1997 to 2007.**

**BUDGET**

- **What is the NCI Bypass Budget?**

Each year, as mandated by the National Cancer Act of 1971 (P.L. 92-218), the NCI prepares the [NCI Bypass Budget](#) which describes continuing and new activities that take advantage of new discoveries and opportunities and maximize the use of NCI resources. This annual plan and budget proposal is provided directly to the President of the United States for formulating the budget request to Congress.

- **How are funding decisions made?**

Funding decisions are based on the paylines set by the NCI Scientific Program Leaders (SPL) committee for the various grant mechanisms. In addition, NCI establishes a special R01 paylines for [new investigators](#). “Exception funding” may be available for grant applications that are close to the payline. Contact the [program director](#) listed on your summary statement for more information on “exception funding” or resubmitting your grant application. Paylines for [Request for Applications](#) (RFA) are determined by the set aside of funds available and the quality of the grant applications.

- **Where is information available on the funding level in specific disease or research areas?**

NCI reports how appropriated funds are spent in a number of different categories or classifications including specific cancer sites, cancer types, and diseases related to cancer, as well as types of research mechanisms. See the [NCI Fact Book](#) for information on funding of disease categories as well as funding and success rates for grant mechanisms.

The [NCI Funded Research Portfolio](#) provides access to various NCI budget reports associated with research funding by research categories. It also provides the ability to search the database in various ways including a text search of the project abstract and a search of the NIH research categories that are assigned to the projects by extramural and intramural groups.

The [International Cancer Research Portfolio](#) represents a searchable database of information on cancer research awards of the cancer funding organizations that comprise the [International Cancer Research \(ICR\) Partners](#).

The NIH report, [Estimates of Funding for Various Diseases, Conditions and Research Areas](#), includes funding levels for grants and contracts across NIH by fiscal year.

- **Where can I find information on paylines and funding policies for NCI?**

Information on the current payline for [R01](#) applications and funding policies for [competing](#) and [non-competing](#) applications is available on the [NCI Funding Policy](#) web page.

Information on NIH grant policies and other policy resources is available on the [Grants Policy and Guidance](#) web page.

- **Where is information available on success rates, including new investigator success rates?**

See the [NCI Fact Book](#) for information on funding of disease categories as well as funding and success rates for grant mechanisms.

The NIH [Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools](#) (RePORT) web site provides information on NIH success rates by institute, grant mechanism, medical school, application type, and other categories. RePORT also provides information on [new investigator](#) success rates and training and career development success rates.