

# NCI Director's Report

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Monica M. Bertagnolli, M.D.  
Director, National Cancer Institute

*March 21, 2023*

*Board of Scientific Advisors (BSA) 7<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting*

@NCIDirector  
@TheNCI

# Today's talk

- Recent progress & what it will take to sustain and accelerate it
- Budget outlook
- National Cancer Plan
- Program and research updates

# State of the Union Address

*February 7, 2023*



For the lives we can save and for the lives we have lost, let this be a truly American moment that **rallies the country and the world together** and proves that we can still do big things.

**Let's end cancer as we know it and cure some cancers once and for all.**



– President Biden  
February 7, 2023



President Biden has reignited the  
Cancer Moonshot  
and set a new national goal:

If we work together, we can  
**cut the death rate from cancer by at least  
50% over the next 25 years**  
and improve the experience of people and their  
families living with and surviving cancer.

We can make real progress toward  
**ending cancer as we know it.**

**It will take all of us doing our  
part. Join us.**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/cancermoonshot/>

# President's NCI Budget for Fiscal Year 2024

**\$7.8B**

Total President's budget  
proposal for NCI for FY 2024

**+ 6.9%**

Total NCI budget increase  
for FY 2024

**+ \$500M**

Cancer Moonshot increase  
(relative to FY 2023 enacted)

**+ \$216M**

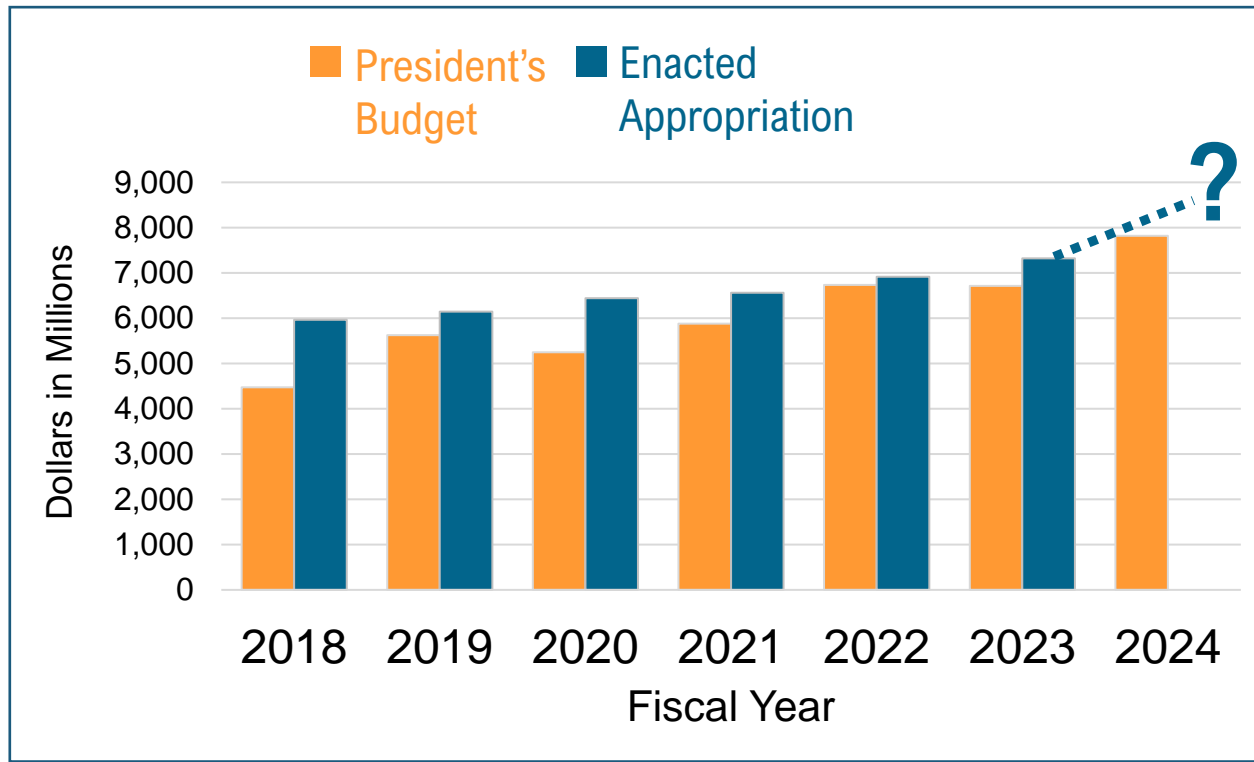
Included for "Year 8" of 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Cures Act (to prevent funding gap/"cliff")

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**= \$716M**

As discretionary resources for  
Cancer Moonshot (no-year funds)

# President's NCI Budget and Enacted Appropriations



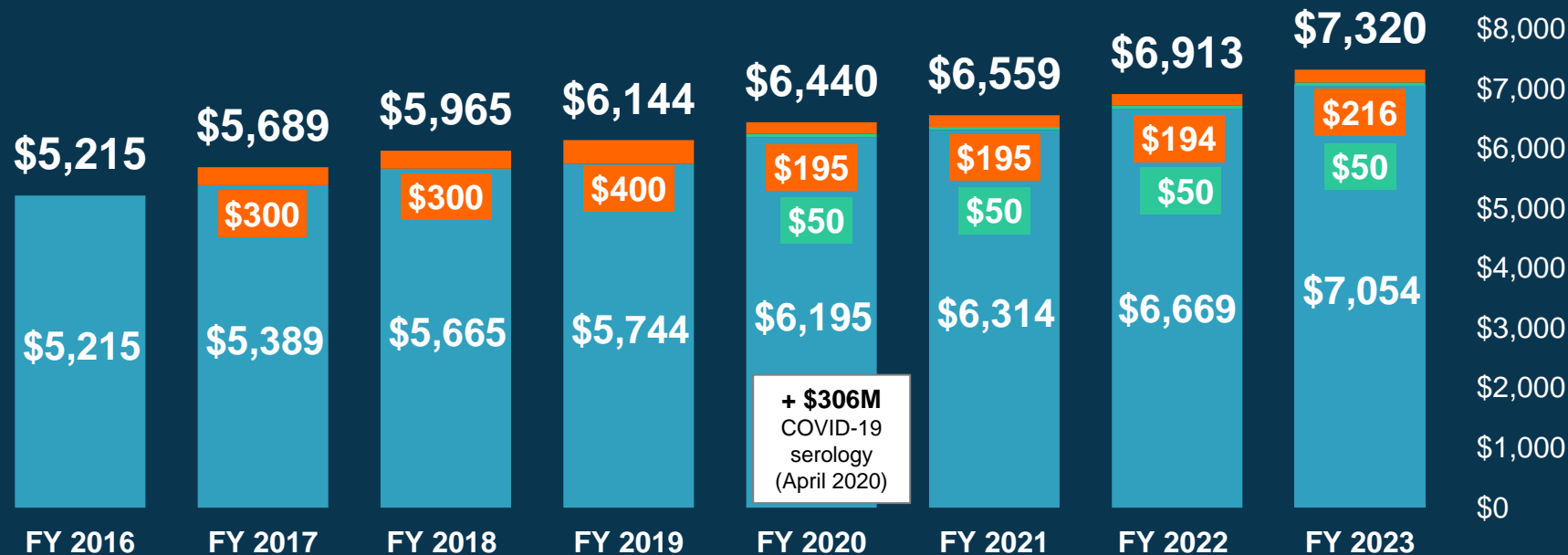
- President's budget request for FY24 would provide \$716M for Cancer Moonshot (a \$500M increase over FY23)
- \$2.5 billion for ARPA-H (\$1 billion increase above FY 2023 enacted)

Source: NCI Budget Fact Book

# NCI Appropriations

## FY 2016 – 2023 (in millions)

21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act - orange  
 Childhood Cancer Initiative - green



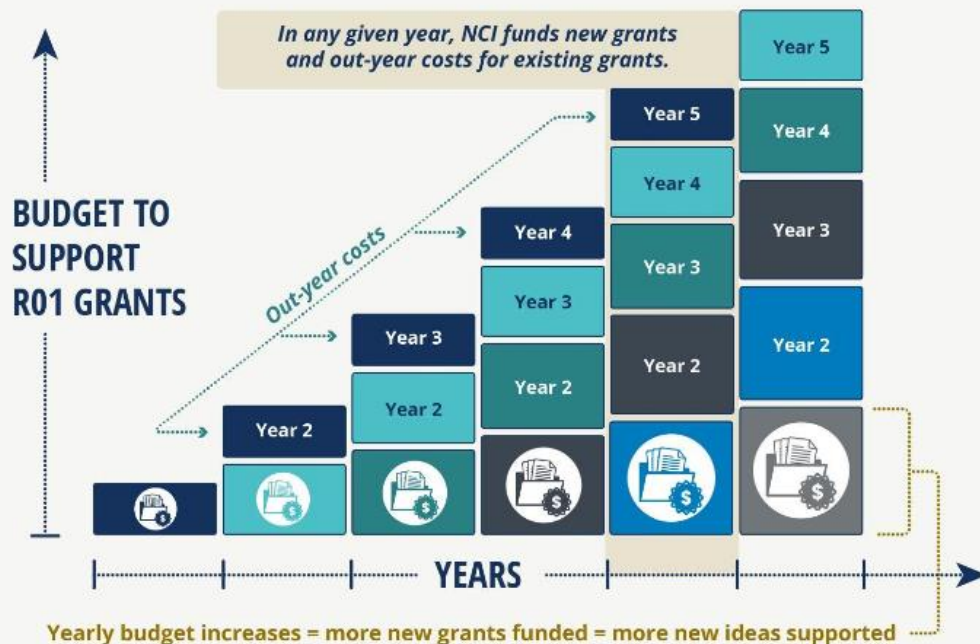
# NCI Research Project Grants (RPG) Funding Policy for Fiscal Year 2023

Competing Grants			Non-Competing Grants
TYPE		PAYLINE	
<b>R01</b>	Grants for Established and New Investigators	<b>12th Percentile</b>	<p>Will be funded at <b>98%</b> of the committed level.</p> <p><b>Exempt</b> from the 2% reduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training awards</li> <li>• R00, R03, R50</li> <li>• SBIR/STTR awards</li> <li>• P30 Cancer Center awards</li> </ul>
<b>R01</b>	Grants for Early-Stage Investigators (ESIs)	<b>17th Percentile</b>	
<b>R21</b>	Exploratory Grants	<b>9th Percentile</b>	



## FUNDING MORE NEW R01 GRANTS EACH YEAR: AN INCREASING STAIR-STEP EFFECT ON NCI'S COSTS

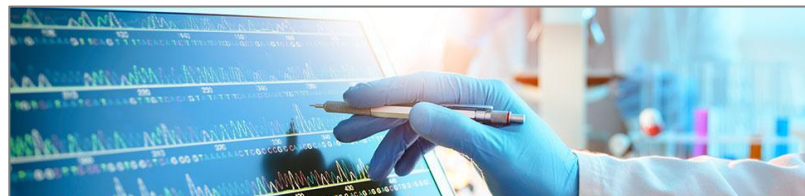
NCI must have sustained funding increases to support as many new ideas as possible, to take advantage of emerging opportunities, and to attract and retain the cancer research workforce.





## NCI Bottom Line: A Blog about Grants and More

[Subscribe](#)



## Cancer Currents: An NCI Cancer Research Blog

[Subscribe](#)



## NCI Funds More Research Grants Thanks to Action by Congress

February 6, 2023



## Doing More—Together—to End Cancer as We Know It

February 9, 2023

Read more:  
[cancer.gov/cancer-currents](https://cancer.gov/cancer-currents)  
[cancer.gov/grants-training/nci-bottom-line-blog](https://cancer.gov/grants-training/nci-bottom-line-blog)

# NATIONAL CANCER ACT of 1971



## NATIONAL CANCER PROGRAM



### NATIONAL CANCER PLAN

A plan for the **National Cancer Program** to align broad societal engagement and focus on critical needs to end cancer as we know it.

**Everyone has a role!**

# Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H)

## Mission:

**Accelerate better health outcomes for everyone.**



Renee Wegrzyn, Director



## Recent Activities:

### October 2022

- Inaugural ARPA-H Director is sworn in

### December 2022

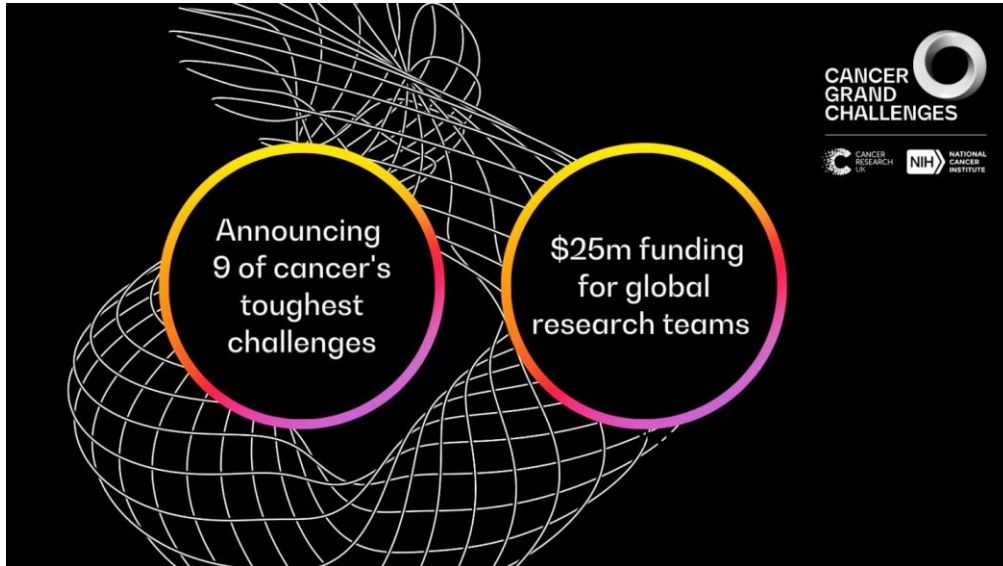
- Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 provides additional \$1.5B for ARPA-H and provides agency authorities

### January/February 2023

- First solicitations for Systems Engineering and Technical Assistance (SETA) support and Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) transition capability
- First technical leaders onboarding

# Cancer Grand Challenges

*Ongoing collaboration between NCI and Cancer Research UK*

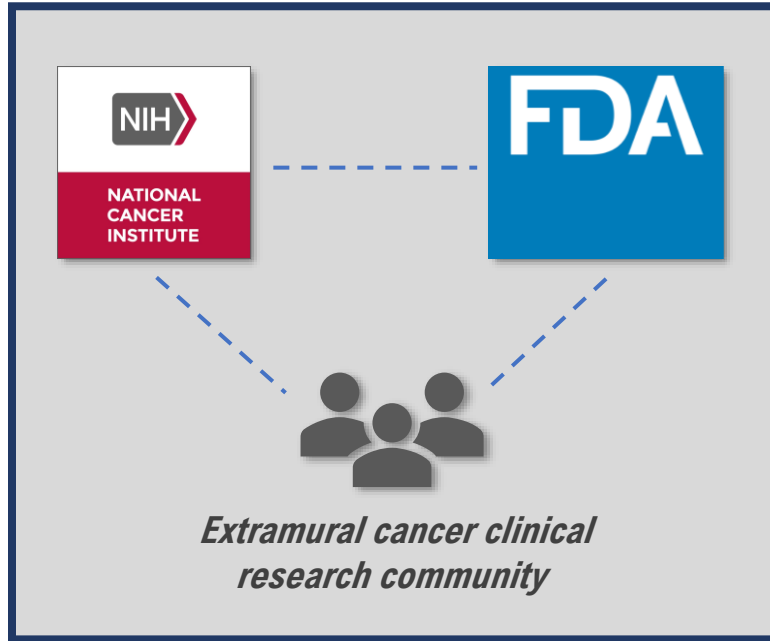


## Nine new challenges announced (round 4):

1. Aging and cancer
2. Cancer cell plasticity
3. Cancer inequities
4. Chemotherapy-induced neurotoxicities
5. Early-onset cancers
6. Obesity, physical activity and cancer
7. Retrotransposable elements
8. Solid tumors in children
9. T-cell receptors

Expressions of Interest open until June 22, 2023.  
International teams invited to apply for up to \$25M in funding.  
**Learn more: [cancergrandchallenges.org](https://cancergrandchallenges.org)**

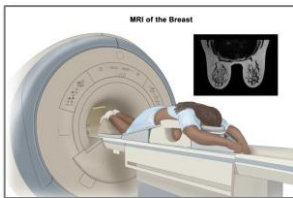
# Clinical Trials Innovation Unit



## The CTIU will:

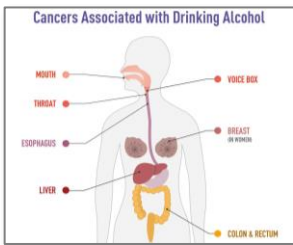
- ✓ **Complement Clinical Trials Support Unit** and other existing processes
- ✓ **Select a few high-priority studies for new study designs** and operational procedures
- ✓ **Help speed clinical testing to deliver new approaches** for diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer

# Research and Science Advances



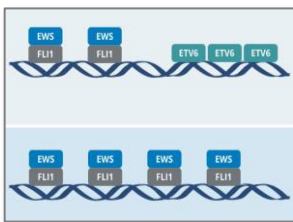
## Lack of paid-sick-leave can present a barrier to cancer screening

*New England Journal of Medicine* | March 2, 2023



## Most American adults are not aware of link between alcohol consumption and cancer, study suggests

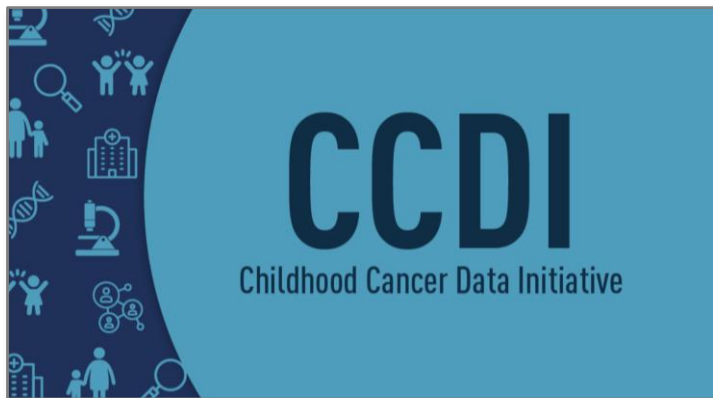
*Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention* | December 5, 2022



## ETV6 protein could be an important target for Ewing sarcoma treatment

*Nature Cell Biology* | January 19, 2023

# Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI)



## ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

Friday, March 24, 2023

- Experts will discuss CCDI's **progress and opportunities** for 2023 and beyond
- Hybrid event with virtual breakout sessions available
- Agenda and details coming soon
- **Register: [cancer.gov/ccdi](https://cancer.gov/ccdi)**



# Thank you!

[www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov)

[www.cancer.gov/espanol](http://www.cancer.gov/espanol)

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