

# NCI Director's Report

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W. Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, National Cancer Institute

*55<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory  
Committee*

*November 6, 2024*

@NCIDirector  
@TheNCI

# Today's Topics

1. Recent News
2. Budget Updates
3. Research and Program Highlights
4. Discussion

# Recent News and Updates

# Recent visits and meetings with collaborators (U.S. and international)

*\*not comprehensive*



Iowa Cancer Summit & local site visits



Kansas (cancer center, NCORP site)



New York (NCORP site)



MD-PhD national student conference (Colorado)



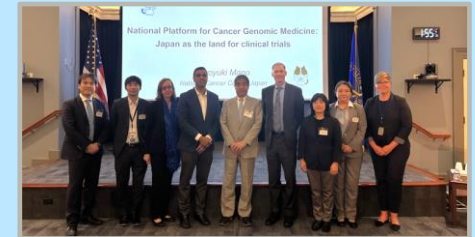
U Chicago research symposium



WHO Collaborating Center for Global Cancer Control



U.S. Ambassador to Australia



National Cancer Center, Japan

# Recent White House engagements

**White House Office of Management and Budget** examiners visited NIH to learn about Cancer Moonshot projects



**HHS Deputy Secretary** visited for an overview of NCI Frederick and efforts aimed at eliminating HPV-driven tumors



**Office of Management and Budget** visited NCI at Frederick to see the science (and needs to advance progress) up close



# NCI Senior Leadership Updates: Retirements

**Office of Cancer Centers  
(OCC)**



**Henry Ciolino, PhD**  
*Retired in June*

**Center for Biomedical  
Informatics and Information  
Technology (CBIIT)**



**Tony Kerlavage, PhD**  
*Retired in May*

**Deputy Director for  
Management / Executive  
Officer**



**Donna Siegle**  
*Retired in March*

# NCI Senior Leadership Updates (cont.)

**Office of Cancer Centers  
(OCC)**



**Krzysztof Ptak, PhD, MBA**  
*Acting Director, OCC*

**Center for Biomedical  
Informatics and Information  
Technology (CBIIT)**



**Jill Barnholtz-Sloan, PhD**  
*Acting Director, CBIIT*

**Deputy Director for  
Management / Executive  
Officer**



**Amber Lowery**

# NCI Senior Leadership Updates: Center for Cancer Research (CCR)

## Acting Co-Directors, CCR



**James Gulley, MD, PhD**



**Carol Thiele, PhD**

## Former Director, CCR



**Tom Misteli, PhD**



# NCI Senior Leadership Updates (cont.)



**Warren Kibbe, PhD**

Deputy Director for Data  
Science and Strategy\*



**Shaalan Beg, MD, MBA**

Senior Advisor for Clinical  
Research



**Peter Garrett**

Director, Center for External  
Affairs\*



**Sanya A. Springfield, PhD**

Acting Deputy Director, Cancer Health  
Equity and Inclusion\*

Director, Center for Cancer Health Equity\*\*



**Kristin Komschlies, PhD**

Associate Director for NCI Frederick\*

*\*Inaugural positions at NCI*

*\*\*Formerly the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities*

# Congratulations to NCI Investigators!



**Steven A. Rosenberg, MD, PhD**

Senior Investigator, Center for Cancer Research

*50 years of excellent service to NCI in pioneering research to improve the lives of people with cancer*



**Stephen J. Chanock, MD**

Director, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics

*Election to the National Academy of Medicine*

# NCI Leadership Retreat – Key Takeaways

Goal:

To identify 1-3 areas of focus for which NCI can **demonstrate output and value** to the public.



TRUST

EARLY ONSET CANCERS

DATA SCIENCE

TRAINING

COMMUNICATION

CANCER BIOLOGY

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

PREVENTION

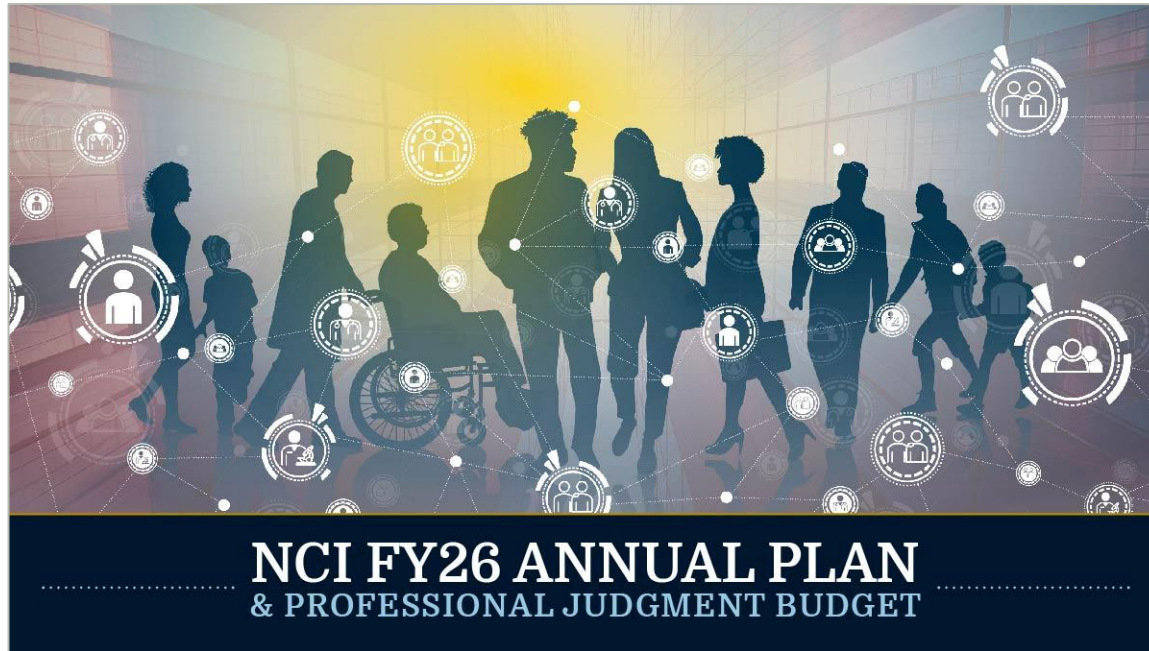
IMMUNOLOGY

OBESITY

VACCINES

# Budget Updates

# NCI Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Plan and Professional Judgment Budget Proposal



<https://www.cancer.gov/research/leading-progress>

# FY26 Annual Plan and Professional Judgment Budget Proposal

## *Highlighted Scientific Opportunities*



**TACKLING THE EMERGENCE OF EARLY-ONSET CANCERS IN YOUNG ADULTS**



**APPROACHING CANCER AS A DISEASE THAT AFFECTS THE ENTIRE BODY**



**ALLEVIATING FINANCIAL TOXICITY FOR CANCER SURVIVORS AND CAREGIVERS**



**EXPANDING THE UTILITY OF CANCER-TARGETING VACCINES**

# NCI's Budget Proposals and Appropriations (FY23 – FY26)

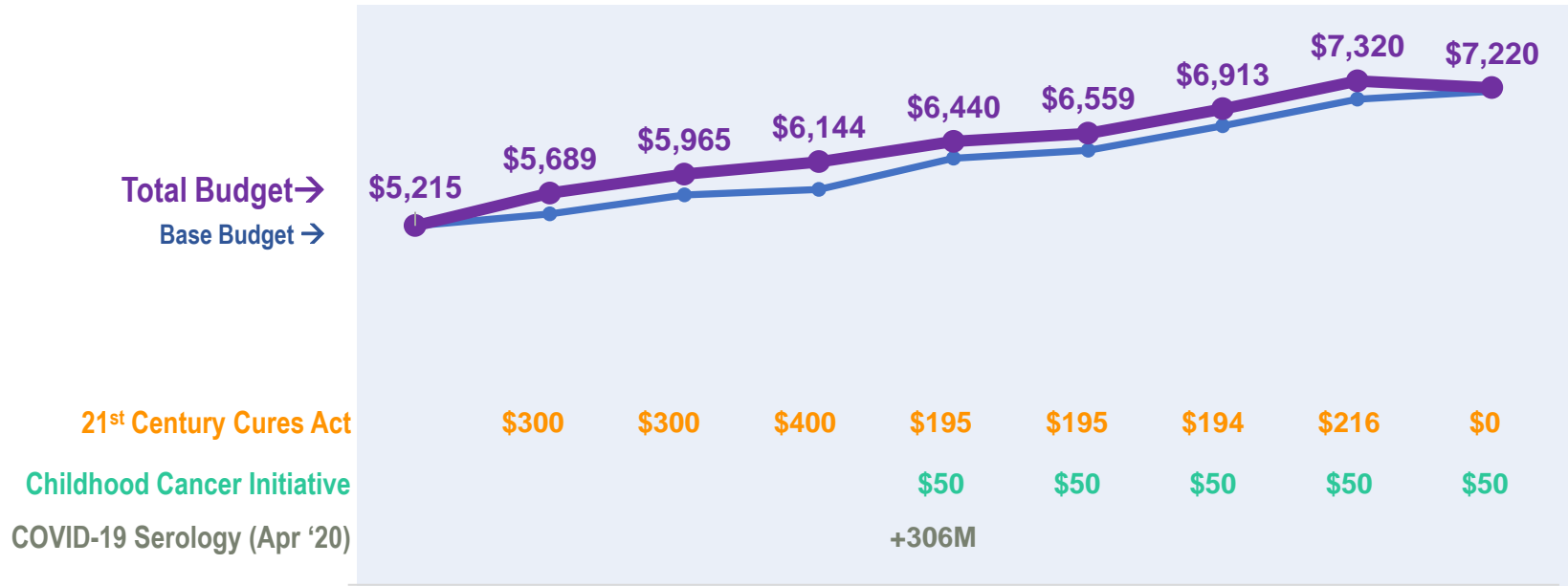
	What it would cost to do what is expected	What we are working with
	NCI's Professional Judgment Budget Proposal	Actual NCI Budget
FY 2023	\$7.766B	\$7.3B
FY 2024	\$9.988B	\$7.22B (\$120M increase to the base but an overall \$96M decrease)
FY 2025	\$11.466B	?
FY 2026	\$11.466B	?

Current CR expires 12/20

FY25 President's Budget Proposal: **\$9.287B**

# NCI Appropriations and Paylines (FY16 – FY24)

*Dollars in millions*



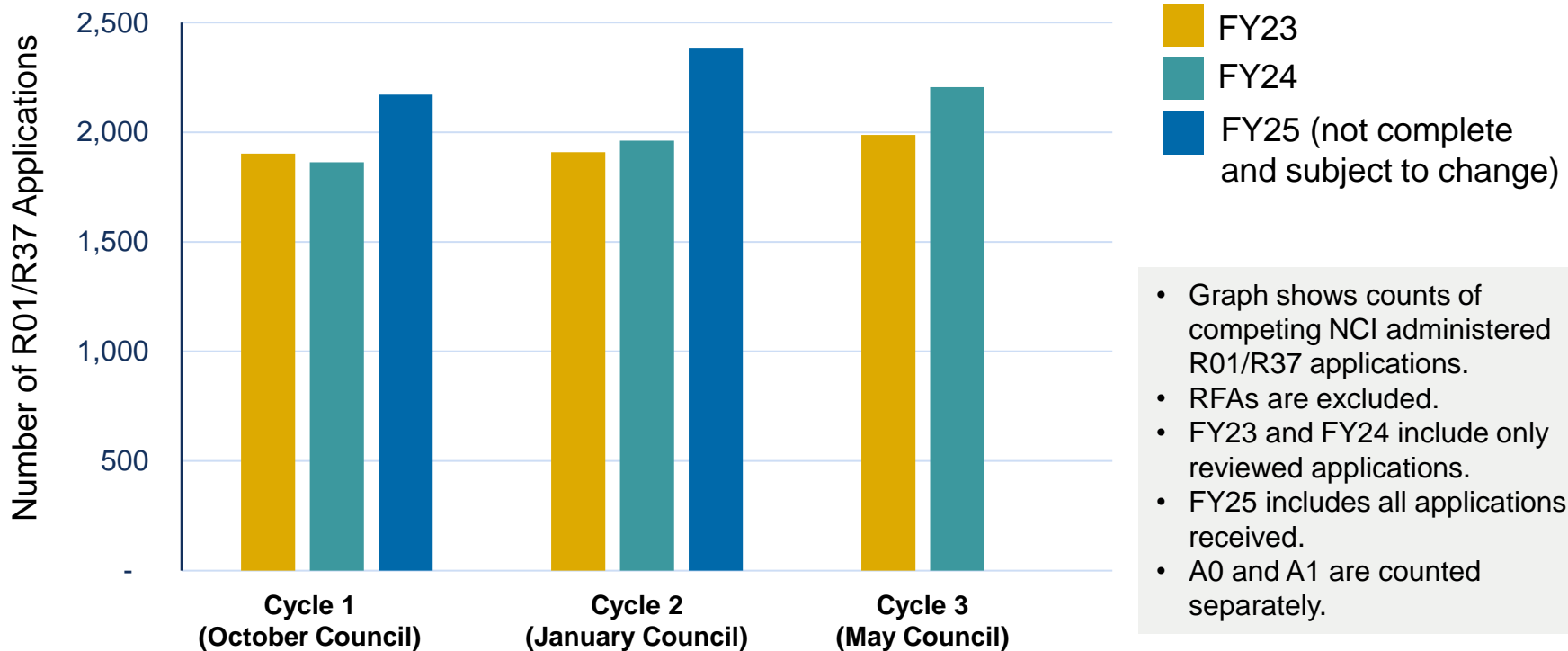
		FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24
Paylines (percentile)	Established	10	10	9	8	10	11	11	12	10
	Early-Stage	12	12	14	14	15	16	16	17	17



FY25



# Recent trends in no. of NCI R01/R37 applications



# NCI Interim Continuing Resolution Funding Policy for RPG Awards FY25

- NIH is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) through 12/20
- NCI interim grant funding policies have been established

Interim Paylines for FY 2025 NCI Competing Grants	
Grant Type	Interim Payline
R01 Grants for Established & New Investigators	9th Percentile
R01 Grants for Early-Stage Investigators	15th Percentile
R21 Exploratory Research Grants	7th Percentile

NCI will generally fund **non-competing** grants at **90%** of the committed level.



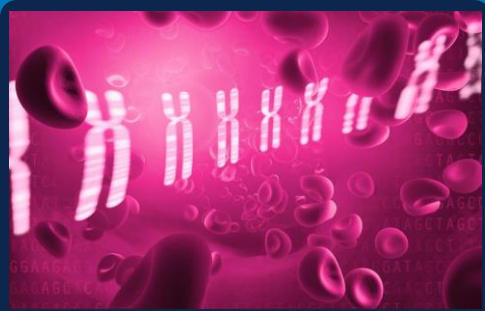
**NCI Bottom Line: A Blog about Grants and More**

NCI's Fiscal Year 2025 Interim Paylines Announced

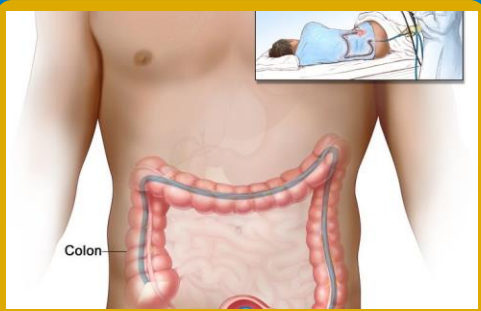
November 5, 2024  
By NCI Director Dr. W. Kimryn Rathmell

# Research and Program Highlights

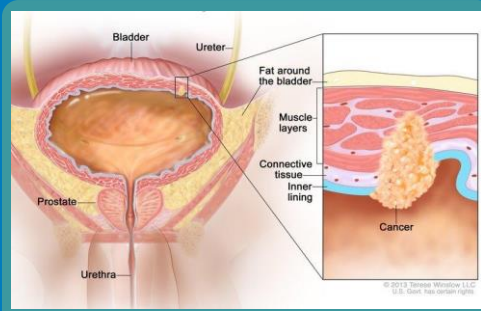
# Research advances – some highlights



**NCI precision medicine trial to test treatments for myeloid cancers, to speed discovery of tailored treatments (myeloMATCH)**

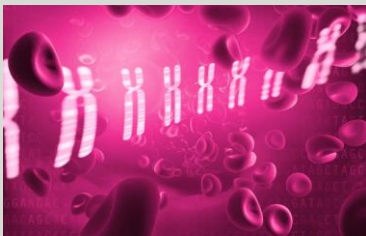


**Study finds cost of cancer screening is less than annual cost of cancer treatment in first 12 months after diagnosis**



**Large clinical trial shows immunotherapy after surgery helps people with high-risk bladder cancer live cancer-free longer**

# Modernizing clinical studies: Key initiatives in progress



## MyeloMATCH

Next-generation precision medicine trial

Aims to enroll several thousand people within the first few years (new substudies rolled out over time)

Launched October 2024



## Pragmatica-Lung

Streamlined model, removes many barriers to access to clinical studies

Launched April 2023

Expected enrollment to complete by end of 2025

# New: Streamlined NCTN Clinical Trials Data Collection Standards

- Designed to:
  - ✓ **Simplify data collection** efforts by research teams
  - ✓ **Accelerate delivery of new therapies**
  - ✓ **Improve access** to clinical trials participation
- New data collection standard practices will be implemented on January 1, 2025
- Effort is part of NCI's goal of modernizing cancer clinical trials
- Led by CTAC's Streamlining Clinical Trials Working Group

Read more in *JNCI: Prindiville et al.*  
September 18, 2024.



The image shows a thumbnail of a journal article cover from the JNCI Journal of the National Cancer Institute. The cover features the JNCI logo and the Oxford logo. The title of the article is "Streamlining the conduct of cancer clinical trials: new standard data collection practices for National Cancer Institute late-phase clinical studies". The authors listed are Sheila A. Prindiville, MD, MPH, Sumithra J. Mandrekar, PhD, Neal J. Meropol, MD, Andrea Denicoff, RN, MS, ANP, Oren Grad, MD, PhD, Judith A. Hautala, PhD, and James H. Doroshow, MD. The cover also includes the journal's name, volume information (2024, 00(0), 1-6), a DOI link, and the advance access publication date (September 26, 2024). The article is categorized as a "Commentary".

JNCI JOURNAL of the NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

OXFORD

JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute, 2024, 00(0), 1-6  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djz239>  
Advance Access Publication Date: September 26, 2024  
Commentary

**Streamlining the conduct of cancer clinical trials: new standard data collection practices for National Cancer Institute late-phase clinical studies**

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## Empowering Goals

## Health-centric Goals



Improved health outcomes  
for everyone

CANCER  
MOONSHOT  
GOAL:

Reduce cancer mortality  
by 50% by 2047



Discovery  
Science

# Our priorities for clinical research

- **Expanding access** to clinical studies
- **Creating strategies** to test and integrate **new models** of clinical research and integration with care delivery (including funding models)
- **Preparing for the rapid onslaught** of drugs, devices, and strategies in transforming cancer care delivery



# What I need from you



**Guidance** on the content, direction, and deliverables



**Support** for transforming and modernizing clinical research



**Motivation** and “positive pressure”

# Thank You!

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

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

1-800-4-CANCER

[NCInfo@nih.gov](mailto:NCInfo@nih.gov)

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