

# NCI Acting Director's Report

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Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.

*10<sup>th</sup> Virtual Meeting of the Frederick National Laboratory Advisory Committee*

*June 27, 2022*

# Today's talk

- 10 Years as a National Lab and of FNLAC!
- Continuity of NCI Leadership
- FY23 NCI budget
- Some Research Updates
- Cancer Moonshot: Success of Initial Investments and New, “Supercharged” Activity

# A Decade of FNLCR and FNLAC

*Then...*



*First NCI Frederick Advisory Committee meeting – Jan. 25, 2012*

*Now...*

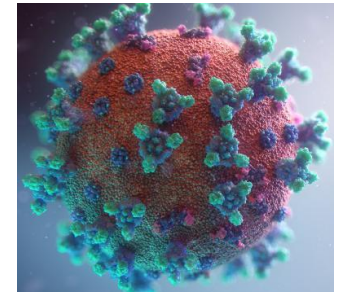
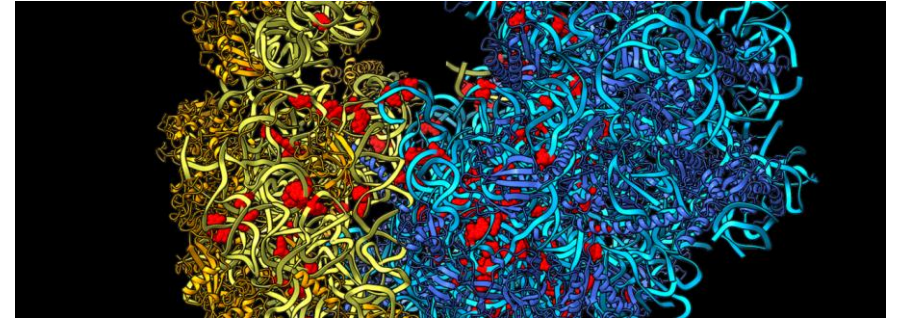
A screenshot of a video conference. At the top, a man in a dark suit and red tie is speaking. Below him is a presentation slide titled "The NCI Program for Natural Product Discovery". The slide features a circular diagram with eight segments: 01. Prequalification, 02. HTS, 03. Reproduction, 04. Compound Validation, 05. Chemical Synthesis, 06. Compound Supply, 07. Biological Assessment, and 08. NCI Natural Products Repository. The center of the diagram is labeled "NPNPD". To the right of the diagram is a section titled "NCI Natural Products Repository" with a sub-section "NPNPD Fraction Library" and a list of bullet points: "Joint effort of Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis + Center for Cancer Research", "Facilitate both intramural and extramural research and address current challenges in natural product-based drug discovery", and "Funded by the Cancer Moonshot". The NCI logo is at the bottom left of the slide.

*Most recent FNLAC meeting: Feb. 24, 2022*

# FNLCR Awareness Campaign

Activities underway:

- Qualtrics survey of **extramural researcher awareness**
- **Outreach** at AACR, other conferences
- **Central resources page** on FNLCR website, [frederick.cancer.gov/resources](https://frederick.cancer.gov/resources)
- Plans for marking FNL's **10 years of being named a national laboratory** (Fall 2022)



*Images from [frederick.cancer.gov](https://frederick.cancer.gov)*



RFP for FFRDC contract recompetition solicitation posted (June 23, 2022):

[Acquisition Notices for NCI's FFRDC - NCI \(cancer.gov\)](https://cancer.gov/acquisition-notices)

# NCI Directors: Continuity since 2010



**Harold E.  
Varmus, M.D.**  
2010 – 2015



**Norman E. "Ned"  
Sharpless, M.D.**  
2017 – 2022



**Douglas R. Lowy,  
M.D. (Acting)**  
2015 – 2017, 2019,  
2022



# NCI Leadership Team

James H. Doroshow, MD	Deputy Director	Since 2011
Dinah S. Singer, PhD	Deputy Director	Since 2016
Douglas R. Lowy, MD	Deputy Director	Since 2010
Donna Siegle	Executive Officer/Deputy Director for Management	Since 2016
Eric Cole	Deputy Executive Officer	Since 2019
Patrick McGarey, JD	Associate Director for Finance and Legislation	Since 2015
Anne Lubenow	Chief of Staff, previously Deputy Executive Officer	Since 2019/2011
Maureen Johnson, PhD	Special Assistant to the Director	Since 2006

# Some Key NCI Initiatives and Decisions 2015 - 2019



2015      Precision Medicine Initiative-Oncology



2015      National Cryo-EM user facility at Frederick National Laboratory



2016      Cancer Moonshot (21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act)



2016-2022      >\$40M increase to P30 support grants for NCI-designated cancer centers



2019      Enabled Congress to recognize low NCI funding rates for investigator-initiated research

# Some Current and Near-Future NCI Activities

CANCER GRAND CHALLENGES	CANCER MOONSHOT	CANCER CENTERS	FREDERICK NATIONAL LAB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>With Cancer Research UK</b></li><li>• First awards announced June 16</li><li>• Participate in development and process for next round</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to fund the most promising initiatives of the initial Cancer Moonshot: a “soft landing”</li><li>• Year of planning for next phase</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop Phase 3 for the P30 Cancer Center Support Grants</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Select at least one new signature project at Frederick National Lab</li></ul>



For more on Cancer Grand Challenges, see press release (June 16, 2022):  
[cancer.gov/news-events/press-releases/2022/cancer-grand-challenges-funded-teams](https://cancer.gov/news-events/press-releases/2022/cancer-grand-challenges-funded-teams)



# FY 2023 Budget Request for the National Institutes of Health

## House Committee on Appropriations Hearing, May 11, 2022



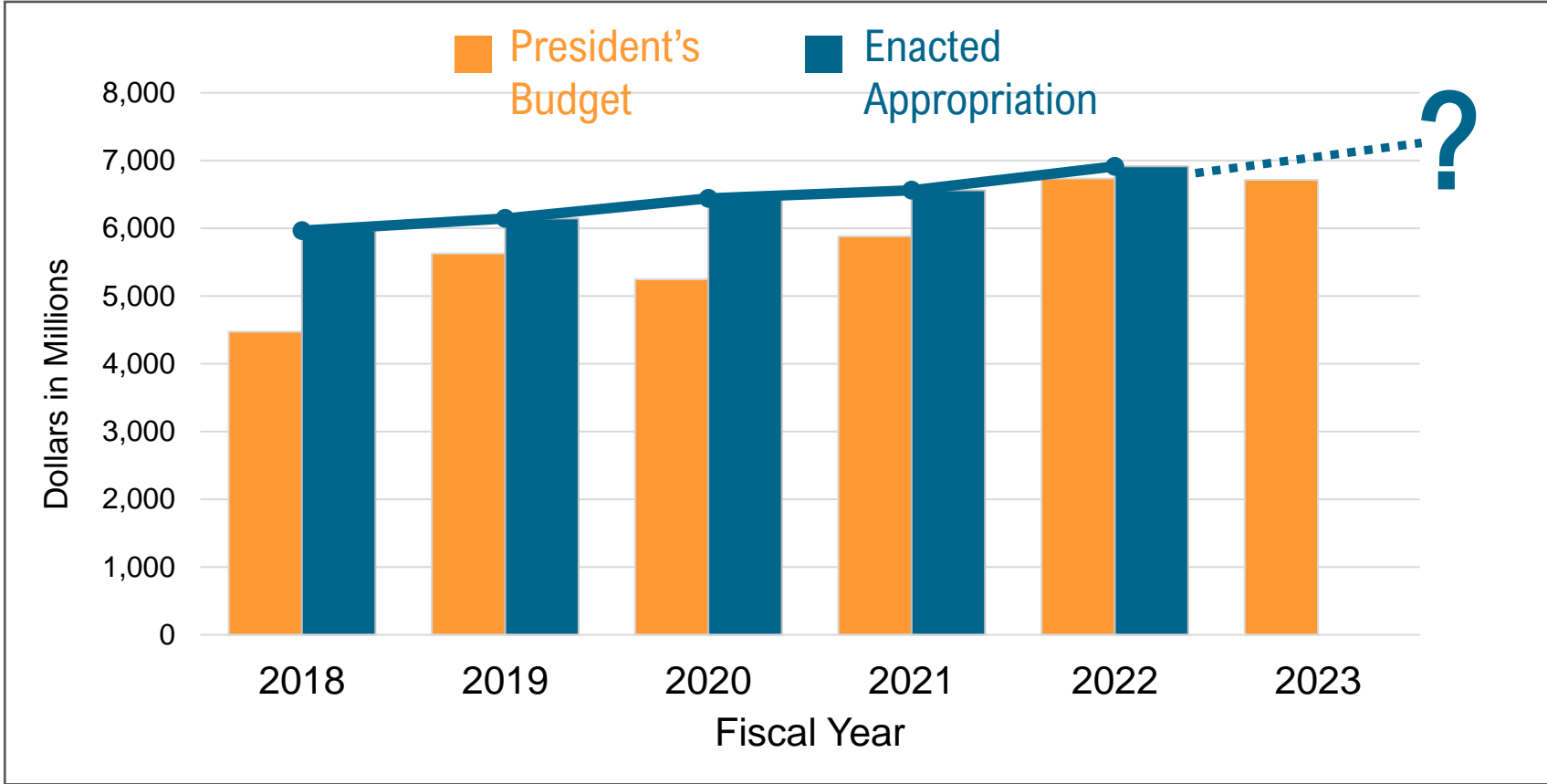
“This [2022 omnibus] includes an increase of \$353 million to fund a greater number of research proposals at the NCI and support for the Cancer Moonshot initiative **that will save lives by speeding cancer research progress and improving prevention detection and treatment efforts.**”

*–Chair Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)*

“Cancer research... is something I think our investments with you all [NCI] are proving to be great... **the research is just truly incredible, as are the results.** So, keep up the good fight.”

*–Representative Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN)*

# President's NCI Budget and Enacted Appropriations



Source: NCI Budget Fact Book

- Strong bipartisan support for cancer research across Congress
- Congress has declined to cut funding to cancer research – even in challenging budget cycles

*House Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee FY23 Bill **proposes \$7.4 B for NCI** (includes \$216 M for Cancer Moonshot) and would represent an overall **\$466 M increase for NCI** over FY22*

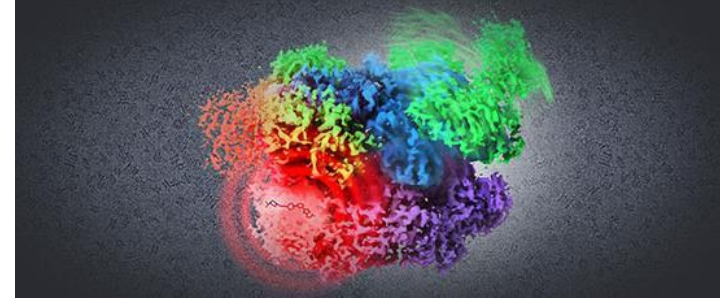
# National Cryo-EM Training Program

- 5-day training in September 2022
- Participants: 12 novice cryo-EM users
- Classroom lectures + hands-on laboratory training
- Topics include sample preparation, grid screening, data collection and processing, structure determination and model building and validation.

## Technical Leads

- Jana Ognjenovic, PhD
- Thomas Edwards, PhD

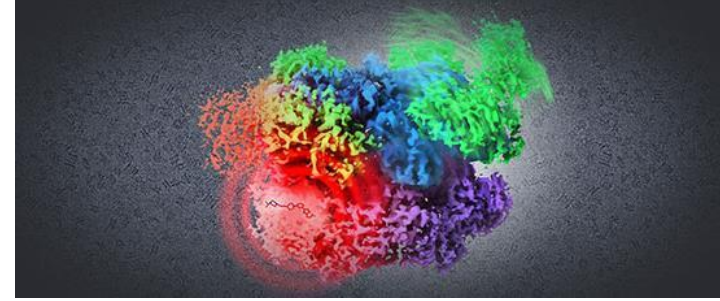
*“Update on the National Cryo-EM Facility” presented on October 18, 2021 at FNLAC meeting, by Dwight V. Nissley, PhD, Director, Cancer Research Technology Program, FNLCR*



# National Cryo-EM Training Program

12 novice cryo-EM users make up the inaugural training program – from:

- University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus
- Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Medical College of Wisconsin, Dept. of Pharmacology and Toxicology
- University of Cincinnati
- City University of New York (CUNY)
- Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Florida
- SUNY Upstate Medical University
- Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
- University of Maryland School of Medicine
- University of California San Francisco





# Center of Excellence for Serology Development and Emergency Preparedness

## FOCUS AREAS:

Development and **standardization** of serological testing

**Best practices** for the serology community

**Coordination, generation, & distribution of resources** needed for the creation and validation of serological assays and reagents for the scientific community.



Photo: [frederick.cancer.gov/initiatives/seronet](https://frederick.cancer.gov/initiatives/seronet)

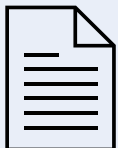
*Funded by HHS*

# ROADMAPS: Responses to Oncology Agents and Dosing in Models to Aid Preclinical Studies

WT	Rescue Name	Dose (mg/kg)	Therapy	Admin Reg	Dosing Schedule	Tumor Model	Immunology	Endpoint	Maximum No. tests per condition	WT	Drug Toxicity Marking (N/A/Total of 3 Tests)	Vehicle
2N2	Meftimomycin	45.27.18	ME12E	1P	Q1000	HC142	Long MEG-2	N	8%	3/0/0	3/0/0	215 Cellulose (cellulose) 36-1000
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- All of NCI's xenograft testing results are online and in a searchable database – for the first time
- Includes data that can be used to identify dosing regimens, providing a resource for planning preclinical studies

[ntp.cancer.gov/databases\\_tools/roadmaps.htm](http://ntp.cancer.gov/databases_tools/roadmaps.htm)



For more: Hollingshead, et al. ROADMAPS: An Online Database of Response Data, Dosing Regimens, and Toxicities of Approved Oncology Drugs as Single Agents to Guide Preclinical In Vivo Studies. *Cancer Research*. June 15, 2022.



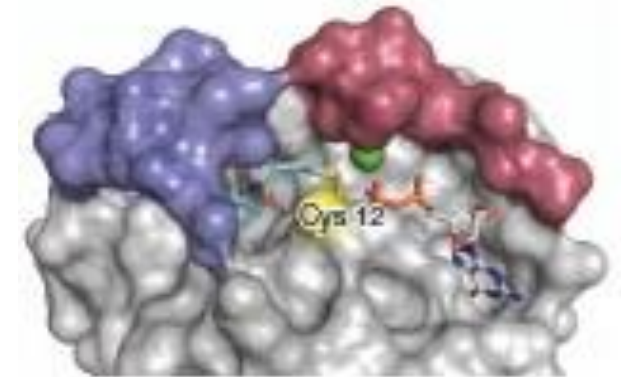
# Advances in treating *KRAS* mutants in people with cancer

No. of new cancer cases per year in the U.S. that contain the most frequent *KRAS* mutant alleles

	All <i>KRAS</i>	G12C	G12D
<b>Lung</b>	45,600	<b>23,000</b>	9,200
<b>Pancreas</b>	32,200	1,000	<b>19,500</b>
<b>Colorectal</b>	60,000	5,700	<b>25,000</b>
Total new cases per year	137,800	29,700	53,700

NCI-Frederick: Patient-derived Models Repository ([pdmr.cancer.gov](http://pdmr.cancer.gov))

Specifically targeting mutant *KRAS*:  
G12C inhibitor *FDA-approved May 28, 2021*  
G12D inhibitor *clinical trials soon*



Ostram, et al, Nature 2013

RAS Initiative researchers have developed unique reagents at FNLCR for the cancer research community.  
Learn more at [cancer.gov/ras](https://cancer.gov/ras)

# Cancer Moonshot<sup>SM</sup>: Accelerate discovery, increase collaboration, and expand data sharing

In the Cancer Moonshot's  
first 4 years (2017-2021)



>2,000  
Publications

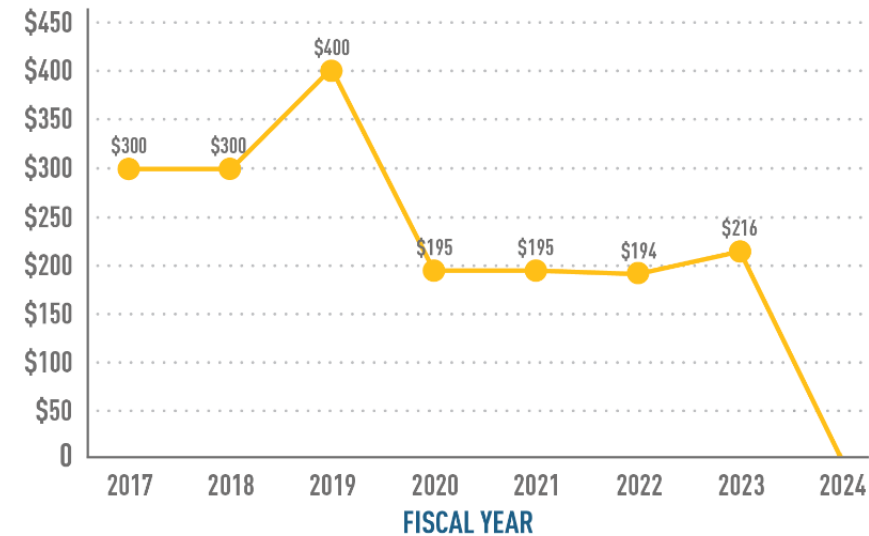


49  
Clinical  
Trials



>30  
Patent  
Filings

Cancer Moonshot Funding Authorized Under  
the 21st Century Cures Act  
(dollars in millions)



*We should continue to support the most promising initiatives from the initial Cancer Moonshot while developing additional activities to meet challenging new goals.*

# Goals of Cancer Moonshot Next Phase

- 1 Cut the cancer death rate in half within 25 years.
- 2 Transform the meaning of cancer.
- 3 Address cancer-associated inequities.

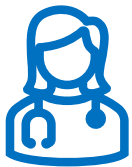
# Accomplishing the New Goals



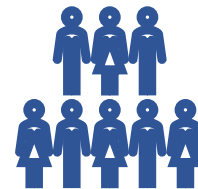
Invest in the pipeline of new drugs for cancer prevention, interception, and treatment



Ensure equitable health care delivery of current and new standards of care



Expand clinical trials to speed evaluation of candidate interventions in diverse populations (racial, ethnic, geographic)



Increase diversity of cancer research and care workforce to resemble the communities we serve

# Some FY 23 Activities to Support Ongoing Moonshot and Jumpstart Next Phase

## Upcoming Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs)

- Cancer Moonshot Scholars Diversity Program
- Feasibility Trial for Asymptomatic Multi-Cancer Detection Screening



## Notices of Special Interest, Request for Information

- Adapt Visualization Methods to Enhance Cancer Moonshot Data
- Harmonize Existing Data to Human Tumor Atlas Network (HTAN) Standards
- Fusion Oncoproteins in Childhood Cancers

*View details at [cancer.gov/moonshot](https://cancer.gov/moonshot).*

# 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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