NCI Director’s Report

Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.

1st Virtual Joint Meeting of NCI Board of Scientific Advisors & National Cancer Advisory Board

April 9, 2020

@NCIDirector
@TheNCI
Today’s Meeting

Deputy Director’s Report – Dr. Doug Lowy

Update: NYU Coronavirus Activity – Dr. Dafna Bar-Sagi

Clinical Trial Policies – Dr. James Doroshow

Closed Session: Discussion of Research Efforts – Dr. Dinah Singer
NCI & COVID-19

• Today’s discussion is focused on SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19
• We will discuss the impact of the pandemic on NCI and the extramural community.
• COVID-19 has affected everything we do at NCI. We’ve adapted how we do business, and we’re embracing opportunities to contribute to COVID research.
• Cancer research and cancer care remain JOB #1 at NCI.
• Even during these difficult times, we are still making progress toward our mission of reducing cancer suffering
NCI & COVID-19

Intramural Research Program
Leaders in virology research
• Lowy, Schiller, Varmus, Gallo, Broder

Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research
• Facilities: CryoEM, Serology, more
• Unique contracting authorities
• Robust collaborative relationships

Grantee Institutions and Networks
diverse skills and powerful technology
NCI Operations: Telework, *Minimal Maintenance*, Critical Clinical Care
Cancer Information Service | 1-800-4-CANCER

Contact Us for Help

Call 1-800-4-CANCER
(1-800-422-6237)
Mon - Fri
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET

Live Chat
LiveHelp
Mon - Fri
9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET

Email Us
NCIinfo@nih.gov
Coronavirus: What People with Cancer Should Know

ON THIS PAGE

- What is coronavirus, or COVID-19?
- If I have cancer, am I at higher risk of getting or dying from COVID-19?
- If I have cancer, how can I protect myself?
- If I receive cancer treatment at a medical facility. What should I do about getting treatment?
- I participate in a clinical trial at a medical facility. What should I do?
- What should I do if I have symptoms of an infection?
- What if I have additional questions?
Information for Grantees

- grants.nih.gov
- grantspolicy@nih.gov
- cancer.gov/coronavirus-researchers

NCI Bottom Line
NIH Guidance for Grantees

• Extended deadlines for applications, no justification required
• Use of NIH grant funds for salaries and stipends
• Flexibility regarding project extensions and accommodating unanticipated costs
• Extensions of post-award reporting requirements
• Numerous flexibilities regarding expenditures of funds
• Extensions for early stage investigator eligibility due to COVID-19-related disruptions will be considered
• NIH will be flexible with extending time constraints for fellowship, career development, and training awards, including phased awards
Leadership Update

Daniel Gallahan, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Cancer Biology
• Participated alongside Dr. Collins, and IC Directors from NIAID, NHLBI, NIDA, and NICHD
• 8 questions including from the Chair and Ranking Member
• Topics included NCI’s increase in applications, CCDI update, clinical trials, and kidney cancer
• Senate budget hearing postponed indefinitely as Congress determines next steps in Appropriations process during COVID-19
Legislative Updates: Three Aid Packages to Address COVID-19

Phase 1 (March 3rd)
• $8.3B in funding for health agencies – vaccine development and testing, plus small business loan subsidies ($2.2B to CDC, $836M to NIAID & NIEHS)

Phase 2 (March 18th)
• $100B in tax credits for employers offering paid sick leave, increases to unemployment benefits, and food assistance

Phase 3: CARES Act (March 27th)
• Largest stimulus in U.S. history - $2 trillion in loans and support for industry and small business
• $130B in aid for hospitals, doctors, nurses, and health centers
• $4.3B to CDC, $945.5M to NIH (NIAID, NHLBI, NIBIB, NCATS, NLM, NIH OD), $80M to FDA
• Telehealth flexibilities, coverage of diagnostics and preventive services for COVID-19
• Direct payments to individuals, unemployment benefits, student loan deferral, election adjustments
Progress in Cancer Research
CD33 CAR T Trial

Study of Anti-CD33 Chimeric Antigen Receptor-Expressing T Cells (CD33CART) in Children and Young Adults With Relapsed/Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03971799

Principal Investigators:
• Nirali Shah, MD, MHSc, NCI
• Richard Aplenc, MD, PhD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Steps per day and all-cause mortality

NCI Press Release

Higher daily step count linked with lower all-cause mortality

Posted: March 24, 2020

In a new study, higher daily steps were associated with lower mortality from all causes. The research team, which includes investigators from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) and the National Institute on Aging, both parts of the National Institutes of Health, as well as from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), also found that higher daily step counts were associated with lower mortality from heart disease and cancer.

The findings were published March 24, 2020, in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

NIH
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
Selumetinib & NF1

In NIH trial, selumetinib shrinks tumors, provides clinical benefit for children with NF1

**Posted:** March 18, 2020

The New England Journal of Medicine

**Original Article**

Selumetinib in Children with Inoperable Plexiform Neurofibromas


In an intramural trial conducted at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health, results from the selumetinib treatment of NF1 patients were published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study showed that selumetinib shrinks tumors and provides clinical benefit for children with NF1.
Metabolic heterogeneity confers differences in melanoma metastatic potential

Alpaslan Tasdogan, Brandon Faubert, Vijayashree Ramesh, Jessalyn M. Ubellacker, Bo Shen, Ashley Solmonson, Malea M. Murphy, Zhimin Gu, Wen Gu, Misty Martin, Stacy Y. Kasitinin, Travis Vandergriff, Thomas P. Mathews, Zhiyu Zhao, Dirk Schadendorf, Ralph J. DeBerardinis & Sean J. Morrison
Discussion