

# NCI Director's Report

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W. Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, National Cancer Institute

*17<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting of the Board of Scientific Advisors (BSA) and the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB)*

*June 12, 2024*

@NCIDirector  
@TheNCI

# Today's Topics

1. Recent News/Updates
2. Budget
3. Research and Program Highlights
4. Q&A

# Recent News and Updates

# President Biden Announces Appointments to the National Cancer Advisory Board



MAY 10, 2024



**Callisia N. Clarke, MD, MS,  
FACS, FSSO**



**Tamika Felder**



**Karen Emmons, PhD**



**Edjah K. Nduom, MD, FAANS**  
*(NCI EIAP Scholar)*

**Later this year...**



## **Orientation for NCI advisory board members**

*More details to come.*

# Recognizing our intramural accomplishments

## National Academy of Sciences

### *Newly Elected Members*



**Steven Rosenberg, MD, PhD**  
Chief, Surgery Branch  
NCI Center for Cancer Research



**Giorgio Trinchieri, MD**  
Chief, Laboratory of Integrative  
Cancer Immunology  
NCI Center for Cancer Research



**Sandra Wolin, MD, PhD**  
Chief, RNA Biology Laboratory  
NCI Center for Cancer Research

## The American Society for Clinical Investigation

### *Newly Elected Member*



**Jung-Min Lee, MD**  
Senior Investigator,  
Women's Malignancies Branch  
NCI Center for Cancer Research

## Association of American Physicians

### *Newly Elected Members*



**Elaine Jaffe, MD**  
NIH Distinguished Investigator,  
Laboratory of Pathology  
NCI Center for Cancer Research



**Yves Pommier, MD, PhD**  
Chief, Developmental Therapeutics Branch  
NCI Center for Cancer Research

# Highlights from AACR and ASCO Annual Meetings



## AACR Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cancer Research

Steven Rosenberg, MD, PhD  
Chief, Surgery Branch, NCI Center for Cancer Research



## ASCO Humanitarian Award

Satish Gopal, MD, MPH  
Director, NCI Center for Global Health



# NCI Leadership Transitions: Retirements

**Executive Officer**  
(a.k.a. Deputy Director for  
Management)



**Donna Siegle**  
*Retired in March*

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



**Tony Kerlavage, PhD**  
*Former CBIIT Director*  
*Retired May 31*

**Office of Cancer Centers  
(OCC)**

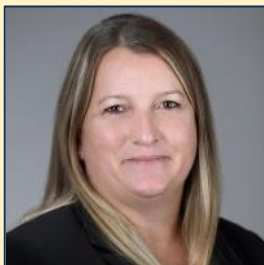


**Henry Ciolino, PhD**  
*Retiring June 30*



# NCI Leadership Transitions: Acting and Interim roles

**Executive Officer**  
(a.k.a. Deputy Director for  
Management)



**Amber Lowery**  
*Acting Executive Officer*

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



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

**Office of Cancer Centers  
(OCC)**



**Krzysztof Ptak, PhD, MBA**  
*(soon to be) Acting OCC Director*

# NCI Center for Cancer Research (CCR) Leadership Transitions

## Acting Co-Directors, CCR



**James Gulley,**  
MD, PhD



**Glenn Merlino,**  
PhD  
March – June



**Carol Thiele,**  
PhD  
July – onward

## Former Director, CCR



**Tom Misteli, PhD**

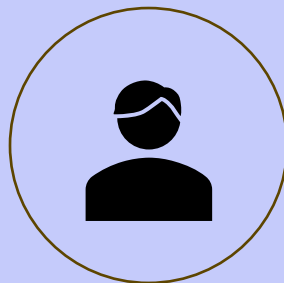
# Coming Soon!

**Executive Officer**  
(a.k.a. Deputy Director for  
Management)



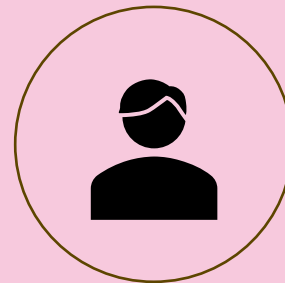
**Executive Officer**

**FNL, Office of Scientific  
Operations**



**Director**

**Center for External Affairs**



**Director**

# NCI Leadership Addition!



Warren Kibbe, PhD

**Deputy Director for Data Science**

*As of June 30, 2024*

- AI Initiatives
- Data harmonization
- Common data elements
- Coding algorithms
- Digital transformation

# Rounding out the team



**Shaalan Beg, MD, MBA**

NCI Senior Advisor for  
Clinical Research



**Cancer Currents: An NCI Cancer Research Blog**

## **Leading Change in Cancer Clinical Research, Because Our Patients Can't Wait**

May 31, 2024

By W. Kimryn Rathmell, M.D., Ph.D., and Shaalan Beg, M.D.

Reshaping the cancer clinical trials infrastructure to overcome key bottlenecks will involve embracing technology and collaboration, and inviting innovation.

# Building leadership (and leadership communication) across the continuum

**NIH** NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

**CANCER EQUITY LEADERS**  
Shaping the Future of Cancer Equity

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services | National Institutes of Health

**Black in Cancer**  
Conference 2024

**Lifting As We Climb**  
June 20-21, 2024

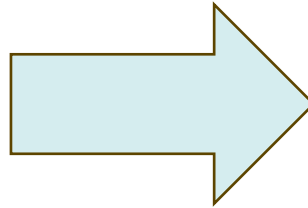
Natcher Conference Center  
Bethesda, MD

In partnership with  
**Frederick**  
National Laboratory  
of Cancer Research

Black in Cancer

# Name change coming soon...

Center to Reduce  
Cancer Health  
Disparities  
(CRCHD)



Center for  
Cancer Health  
Equity  
(CCHE)

# Budget



# Our current budget situation

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 <i>(\$120M increase to the base but an overall \$96M decrease)</i>
FY 2025	\$11.466B	?

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

# Research Project Grants Funding Policy for FY24

Competing Grants		
Type	Interim payline	Final payline
R01 Grants for Established and New Investigators	9 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>
R01 Grants for Early-Stage Investigators	14 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>
R21 Exploratory Grants	9 <sup>th</sup> Percentile	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Percentile</b>

Non-competing (continuing) grants will be funded at 95% of the committed level.

Excluded from the 5% reduction: Training awards; R00, R03, R50; SBIR/STTR awards; P30 Cancer Center awards

*More details at:  
**NCI Bottom Line Blog***



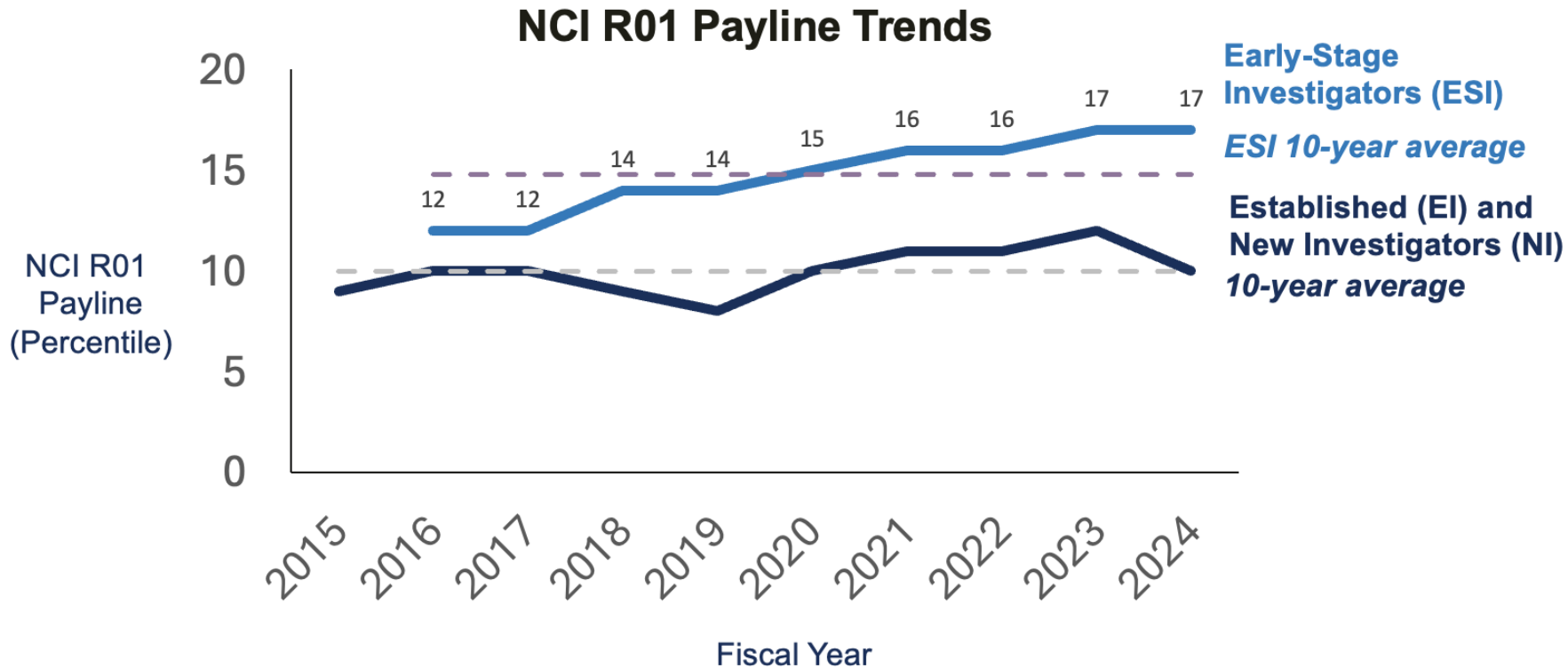
**NCI Bottom Line: A Blog about Grants and More**



**Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriation Brings Clarity and Difficult Choices**

April 4, 2024, by NCI Director Dr. W. Kimryn Rathmell

# Prioritizing support for early-stage investigators



## Empowering Goals

## Health-centric Goals



Improved health outcomes for everyone

CANCER MOONSHOT GOAL:  
Reduce cancer mortality by 50% by 2047



Discovery Science

# Values to guide our collective efforts

**Talent Development**



**Creativity and Innovation**



**Empowerment**



**Fiscal Responsibility**



# Research and Program Highlights

# Exciting advances – recent highlights

<a href="#"><u>Scientists discover a single type of <i>Fusobacterium nucleatum</i> that may fuel colorectal cancer</u></a> (implications for prevention and screening)	NCI-funded
<a href="#"><u>Scientists create AI tool that predicts response to immunotherapy</u></a> (“LORIS”)	Led by NCI, in partnership with MSKCC
<a href="#"><u>Urine test identifies high-risk prostate cancers, may help avoid unnecessary biopsies</u></a>	Funded partly by NIH/NCI (R35, U01)
<a href="#"><u>Study suggests childhood cancer survivors may age faster</u></a>	Led by NCI researchers NCI U01 (St. Jude Lifetime Cohort)
<a href="#"><u>CISNET study informs new USPSTF breast cancer screening recommendation</u></a>	Collaborative effort of 6 teams from NCI-funded Cancer Intervention and Surveillance Network (CISNET)

# Transforming clinical research in the 360 era



- Decentralized clinical trial designs
- Virtual Clinical Trials Office (VCTO)
- Clinical Trials Innovation Unit (CTIU)
- NCI MATCH successor trials
- More broadly innovating across the clinical trials space



# Other efforts and collaborations to transform clinical research

*Including in cancer prevention and international partnerships*



Vanguard Study on multi-cancer detection



“SHIP” trial: Self-collection for HPV testing to Improve Cervical Cancer Prevention



- G7 Cancer, IARC (ongoing collaborative efforts)
- HPV one-dose vaccine trial in Costa Rica
- Partnerships with India, in Africa, and many other regions around the world

# Bringing more leading-edge clinical research to community settings

## BSA Ad Hoc Working Group to Enhance Community Cancer Research and Quality Care



**Co-Chair**

William Dahut, MD  
American Cancer Society



**Co-Chair**

*Raymond Osarogiagbon, MBBS*  
Baptist Health Cancer Center



**Executive Secretary**

Andrea Denicoff, RN, MS, ANP  
National Cancer Institute

**Members:**

Smita Bhatia, MD, MPH  
Suanna Steeby Bruinooge, MPH  
Anjee Davis, MPPA  
*Christopher Friese, PhD, RN*  
Michael Kelley, MD, FACP  
Molly Kisiel  
Mark Lewis, MD  
*Karen Mustian, PhD, MPH*  
Augusto Ochoa, MD  
Electra Paskett, PhD  
Lori Pierce, MD  
Gladys Rodriguez, MD  
Paul Spicer, PhD  
*Cornelia Ulrich, PhD*

Robert Winn, MD

*Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD*

**Ex Officio Members:**

Nelvis Castro  
Loretta Christensen, MD, MBA  
Ann Geiger, PhD, MPH  
Katrina Goddard, PhD  
Jordan Grossman  
Brandy Heckman-Stoddard, PhD, MPH  
Douglas Lowy, MD  
Michael Montella, PharmD, MBA  
Sanya Springfield, PhD

# Committed to hearing from the community

## Open calls for input



**How can we reimagine clinical research to accelerate progress for people with cancer?**



**dr.joezundell** 1w  
Enable a section of funding towards preventative measures for cancer. Also invest in patient care methods once patients are in remission incorporating nutrition and exercise assistance. Enable funding to provide the means to publish more experiments of things that do not work in cancer research as the "what not to do" is often as important as the "to do." I'm tired of repeating experiments and wasting funds on experiments that have likely already been performed but produced negative data.

4 likes Reply

## Visiting with trainees, advocates, NCORP sites



## New Annual Scientific Priorities Retreat



# What I need from you...

- Where would you prioritize innovation in the clinical research space?
- With regard to funding plans, RFA's and PAR's
  - Your inputs are immensely valuable (all of them)
  - Your comments help us level set and ensure we are staying out in front
- Suggestions for ways to move forward, faster...

# Closing thoughts

We have so much to be **optimistic** about in terms of cancer research, science, workforce, and advancing health equity...

...but we still face **tough budget realities** for FY24 and likely FY25.

**We can't slow down.** We will need to work together more creatively with the entire cancer community to deliver on our shared mission.



# 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)

[@NCIDirector](https://twitter.com/NCIDirector)

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**NATIONAL  
CANCER  
INSTITUTE**