

NCI Director's Report

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

*17th Joint Meeting of the NCI Board of Scientific Advisors (BSA) and the
National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB)*

December 3, 2024

@NCIDirector
@TheNCI

Welcome! Reappointed and Pending NCAB Members

Reappointed:

Luis Alberto Diaz, Jr., M.D.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Pending:

Kimberly Stegmaier, M.D.

Harvard Medical School and Dana-Farber
Cancer Institute

Welcome! New BSA Members

Suzanne D. Conzen, M.D.

University of Texas Southwestern Medical
Center

Debra L. Friedman, M.D.

Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Wells A. Messersmith, M.D.

University of Colorado School of Medicine

William C. Hahn, M.D., Ph.D.

Harvard Medical School

Katharine A. Rendle, Ph.D., M.P.H.

University of Pennsylvania

Charles M. Rudin, M.D., Ph.D.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

George J. Weiner, M.D.

University of Iowa

Kris C. Wood, Ph.D.

Duke University

Today's Topics

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

Recent News and Updates

NCI Leadership Team: Updates



Douglas Lowy, MD
Principal Deputy Director



Sanya A. Springfield, PhD
Acting Deputy Director, Strategic Engagement



Warren Kibbe, PhD
Deputy Director for Data Science
and Strategy



Kristin Komschlies, PhD
Associate Director for NCI Frederick



Amber Lowery
Deputy Director for Management /
Executive Officer



Shaalan Beg, MD, MBA
Senior Advisor for Clinical Research



Dinah Singer, PhD
Deputy Director, Scientific Strategy
and Development



Peter Garrett
Director, Center for External Affairs

NCI Senior Leadership and Organizational Updates (cont.)



Louis M. Staudt,
MD, PhD

Thank you, Lou, for 11 years of leadership as director of NCI's Center for Cancer Genomics (CCG)!

Dr. Staudt will continue in his role as Chief of the NCI Center for Cancer Research (CCR) Lymphoid Malignancies Branch.

Administrative change to improve synergy and efficiency:

Center for Cancer Genomics (CCG)



Office of Cancer Genomics (OCG)

Within NCI's Division of Cancer Biology (DCB)

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

President's Cancer Panel Report Release

Enhancing Patient Navigation with Technology to Improve Equity in Cancer Care (published Nov. 2024)

- Four priorities and recommendations on the development and use of technology for cancer patient navigation
- More information and the full report are available at: prescancerpanel.cancer.gov



Recent public virtual meetings (Sept. 12 & 13):
Developing and Retaining a Robust and
Diverse Cancer Workforce: Challenges and
Opportunities Across the National Cancer
Program

Cancer Center Directors Meeting (Sept. 2024)

Four topics of discussion:

**Empowering and recognizing
work that crosses cancer
boundaries**

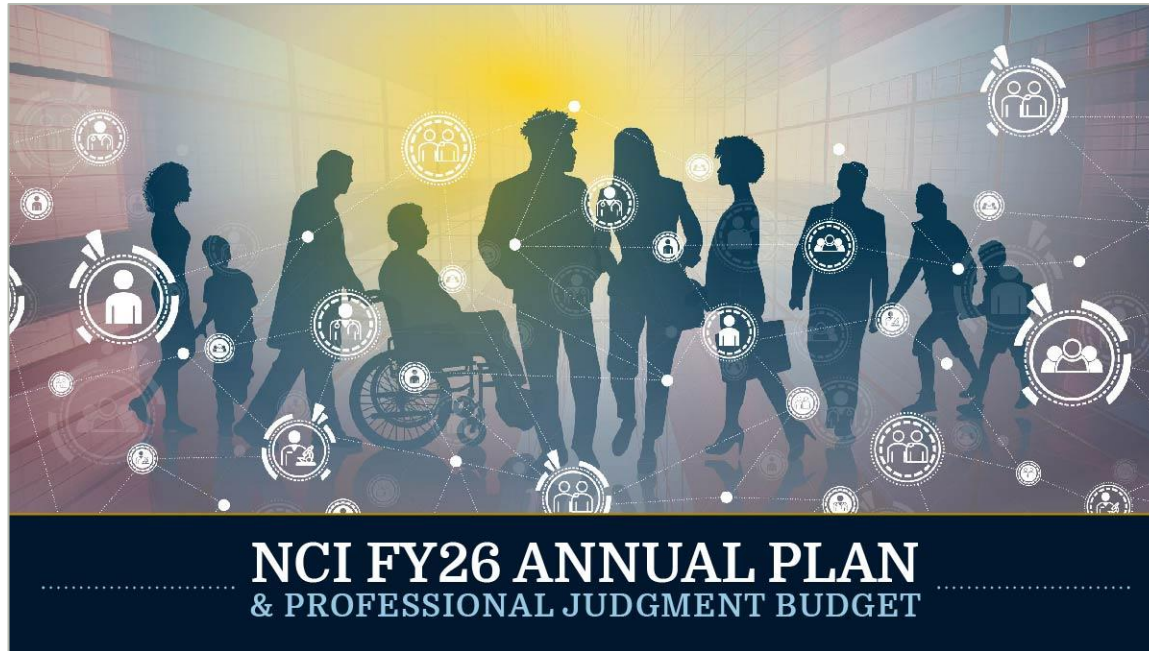
**Enabling nation-wide efforts to
achieve unifying cancer goals**

CCSG Renewal

Engaging Communities

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

Stories of Cancer Research



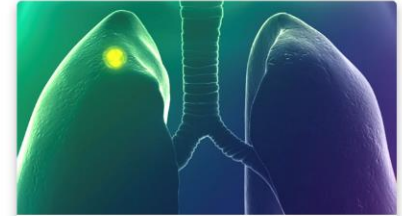
[Opting for a Novel Combination Treatment for Resistant Aggressive B-Cell Lymphoma](#)

Enrolling in NCI's trial of a 5-drug combination called ViPOR for non-Hodgkin lymphoma changed Justin's life.



[Treating Precancer in Low-Resource Settings to Prevent Cervical Cancer](#)

Read about the work of Leeya Pinder, M.D., M.P.H., an NCI grant recipient and Cancer Moonshot Scholar.



[Lighting the Way to Detect Tumors During Surgery](#)

CYTALUX, a molecule that makes tumors glow in the operating room, was developed with support from NCI.

<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

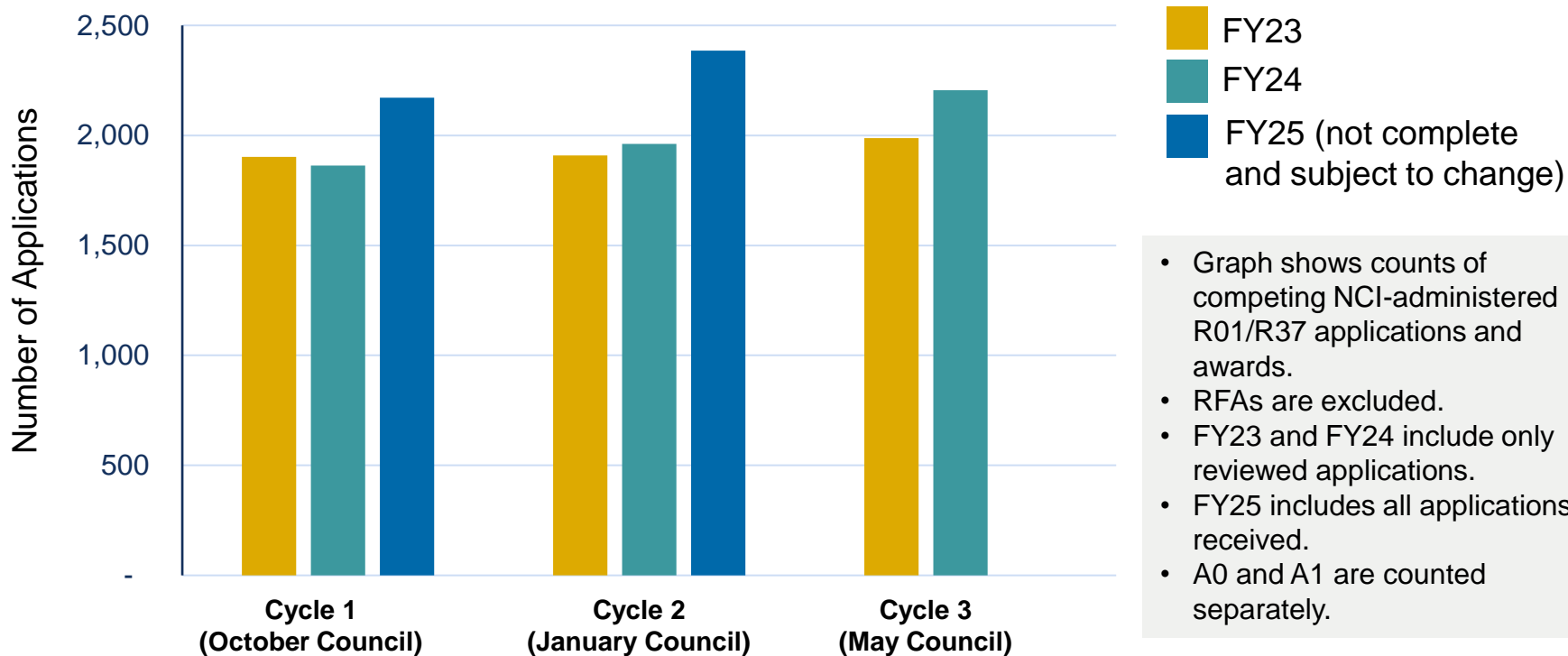
NCI's Budget Proposals and Appropriations (FY23 – FY26)

	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**

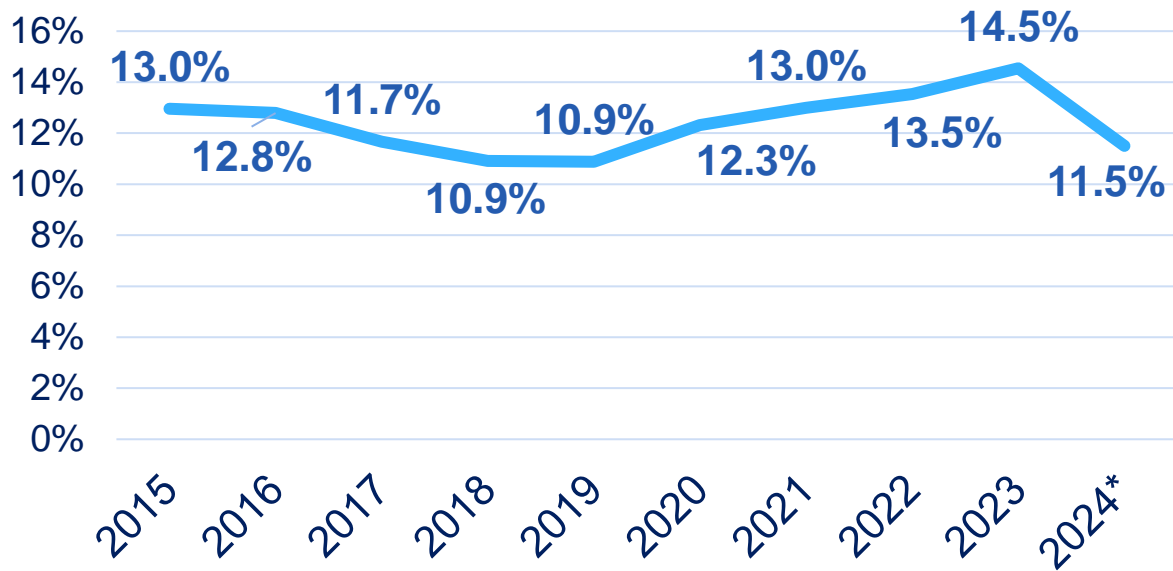
Recent trends in no. of NCI R01/R37 applications and awards



- Graph shows counts of competing NCI-administered R01/R37 applications and awards.
- RFAs are excluded.
- FY23 and FY24 include only reviewed applications.
- FY25 includes all applications received.
- A0 and A1 are counted separately.

NCI Award Rates Since FY 2015

R01/R37 competing applications and awards



FY	Applications	Awarded
2015	4956	642
2016	5419	693
2017	5939	693
2018	6523	712
2019	6783	738
2020	6656	820
2021	6550	851
2022	6105	826
2023	5927	862
2024	6207	714

*FY 2024 data is estimated.

Award rate is the total number of awards divided by the total number of applications.

Competing applications are defined as type 1, 2, 9 that have been reviewed. A0 and A1 are counted separately.

NCI Interim 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.



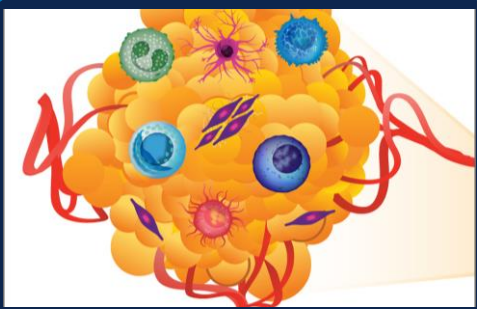
NCI Bottom Line: A Blog about Grants and More

NCI's Fiscal Year 2025 Interim Paylines Announced

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

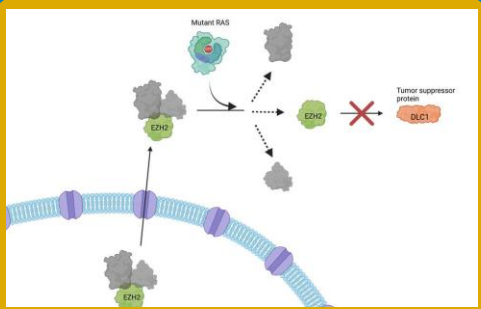
Research and Program Highlights

Research advances – some highlights



10 new studies from Human Tumor Atlas Network (HTAN) provide critical information on how tumors develop, spread, and respond to treatments.

Various Nature journals (Oct 2024)



NCI researchers and collaborators uncover **new role of mutant RAS** involving transport of specific proteins in the nucleus, with implications for improving treatment.

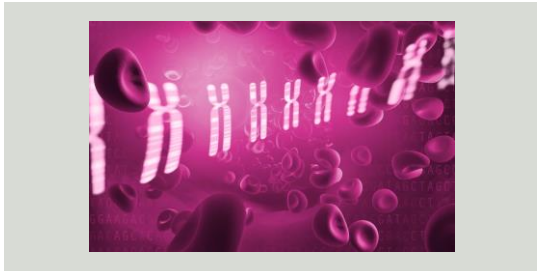
Nature Cancer (Nov 2024)



More than 2.1 million cancer survivors diagnosed between ages 15 and 39 (adolescents and young adults) years in the U.S.

JNCI (Oct 2024)

Modernizing clinical studies: Key initiatives/advances



MyeloMATCH

Precision medicine trial testing new treatment combinations for AML and MDS, launched October 2024

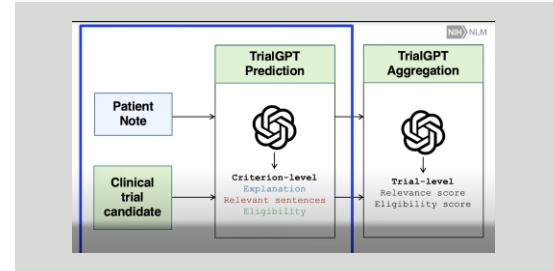
Aims to enroll several thousand people within the first few years (new substudies rolled out over time)



Pragmatica-Lung

Streamlined model, **removes many barriers** to access to clinical studies, launched April 2023

Testing if targeted therapy + immunotherapy for advanced NSCLC helps patients live longer vs. standard chemotherapy



TrialGPT

AI algorithm to help speed up process of matching potential volunteers to clinical trials

Led by National Library of Medicine and NCI researchers

Nat Commun (Nov. 18, 2024)

What I need from you

- How can we **better utilize our existing networks and partnerships** in advancing our goals for cancer?
 - Examples: Cancer Centers, clinical trials networks, professional societies, etc.
- **What can we leverage *now*** to more effectively share knowledge, data, and opportunities to partner and solve problems?
 - Example: Early onset cancers – we need to be urgent and think differently.

Thank You!

www.cancer.gov

www.cancer.gov/espanol

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