

# NCI Director's Report

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Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.

*Virtual National Cancer Advisory Board Meeting*  
February 11, 2020

@NCIDirector  
@TheNCI

# Agenda

- Evidence of Progress Against Cancer
- NCI Budget
- Leadership Updates
- In the News
- Discussion



# Evidence of Progress Against Cancer

## Facts & Figures 2020 Reports Largest One-year Drop in Cancer Mortality

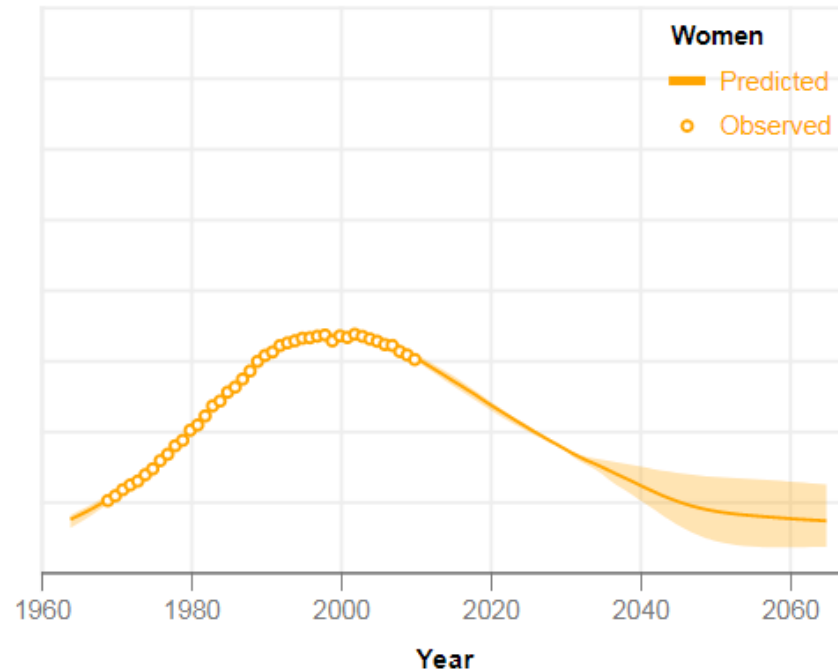
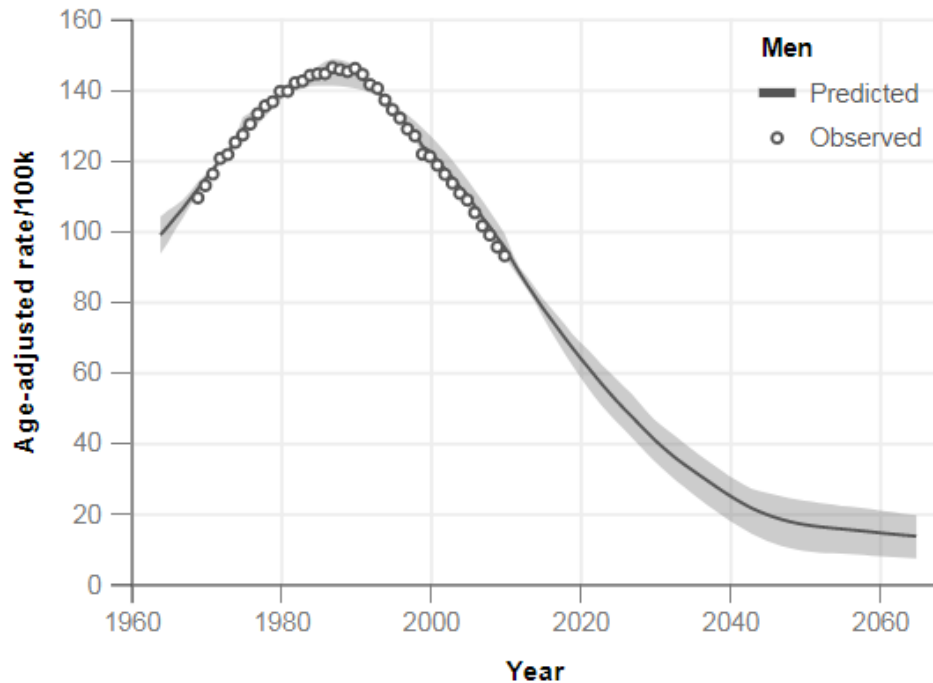


- Cancer death rate declined 29% from 1991 to 2017
- 2.2% drop from 2016 to 2017
- Most rapid declines in mortality:  
*Melanoma, NSCLC*



# Status Quo: Lung cancer mortality rates are projected to decrease by ~50% between 2020 and 2040

Projected lung cancer mortality until 2065 – ages 30-84  
Means across for CISNET models



## Projected cancer mortality rates

### Males

2020	<b>64</b>
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2040	<b>25</b>
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### Females

2020	<b>47</b>
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2040	<b>25</b>
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# Lung cancer mortality is decreasing faster than lung cancer incidence

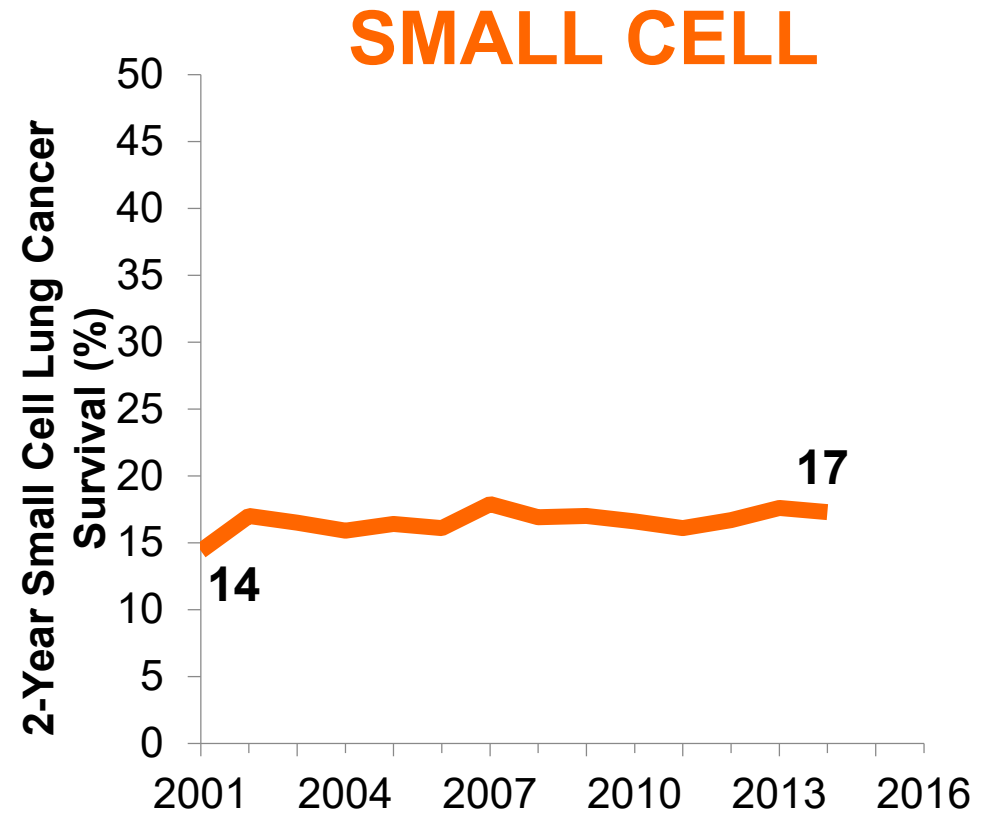
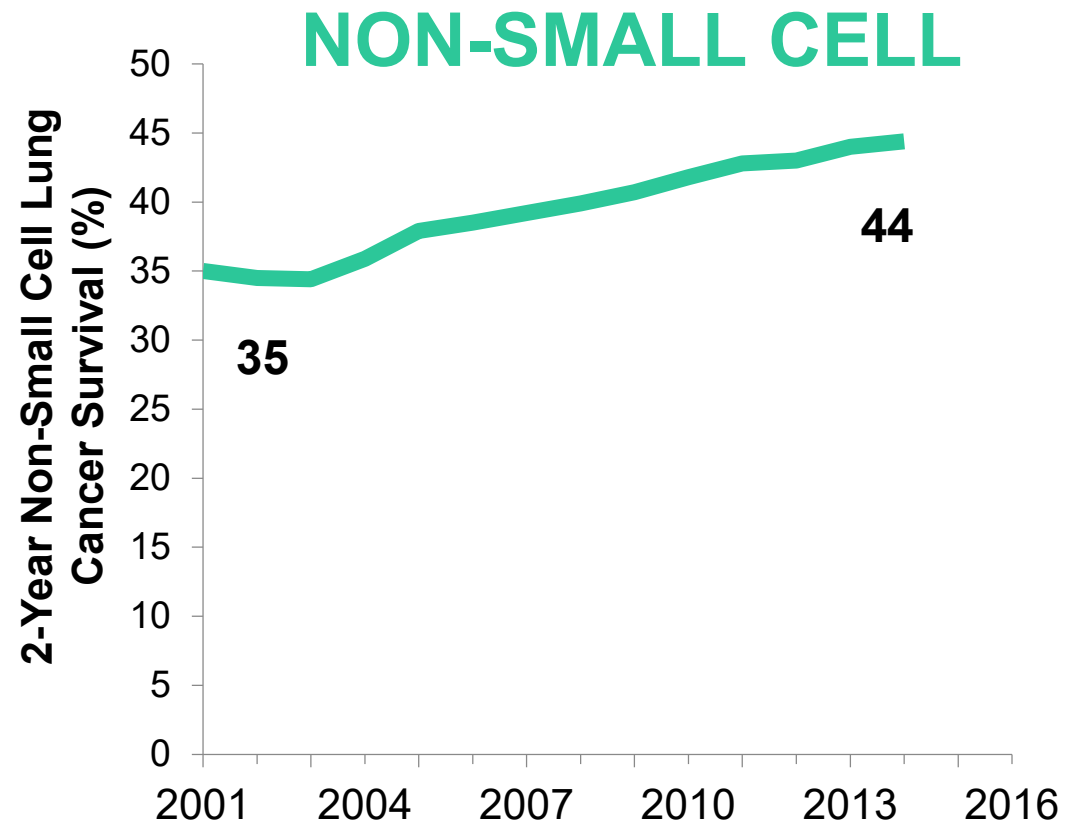
		Average annual percent change
<b>Males</b>	<b>Incidence</b> (2011-15)	<b>-2.6</b>
	<b>Mortality</b> (2012-16)	<b>-4.3</b>
<b>Females</b>	<b>Incidence</b> (2011-15)	<b>-1.2</b>
	<b>Mortality</b> (2012-16)	<b>-3.1</b>

**Incidence:** age standardized, delay-adjusted rate

**Mortality:** age-standardized rate

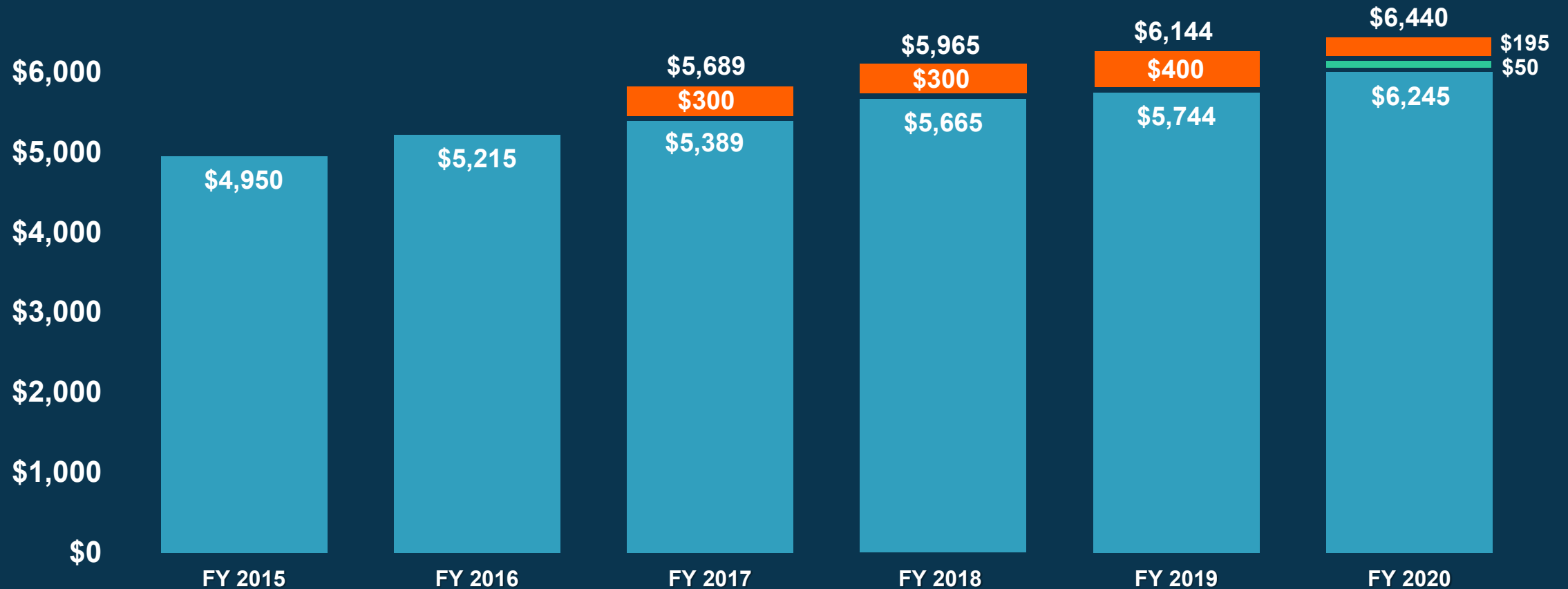
# Survival Trends in NSCLC & SCLC (Women)

SEER-18, 2001-2016



# NCI Appropriations FY 2015 – 2020 (in millions)

21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act - orange  
Childhood Cancer Initiative - green



# Appropriations Outlook

STEP 1



White House OMB coordinates with federal agencies to formulate the President's budget proposal

STEP 2



Congressional appropriations committees consider President's proposal & prepare legislation

STEP 3



Congress reconciles & finalizes appropriations legislation & sends to the President

STEP 4



President signs the appropriations bill into law making funds available for NIH & NCI

FY 2021



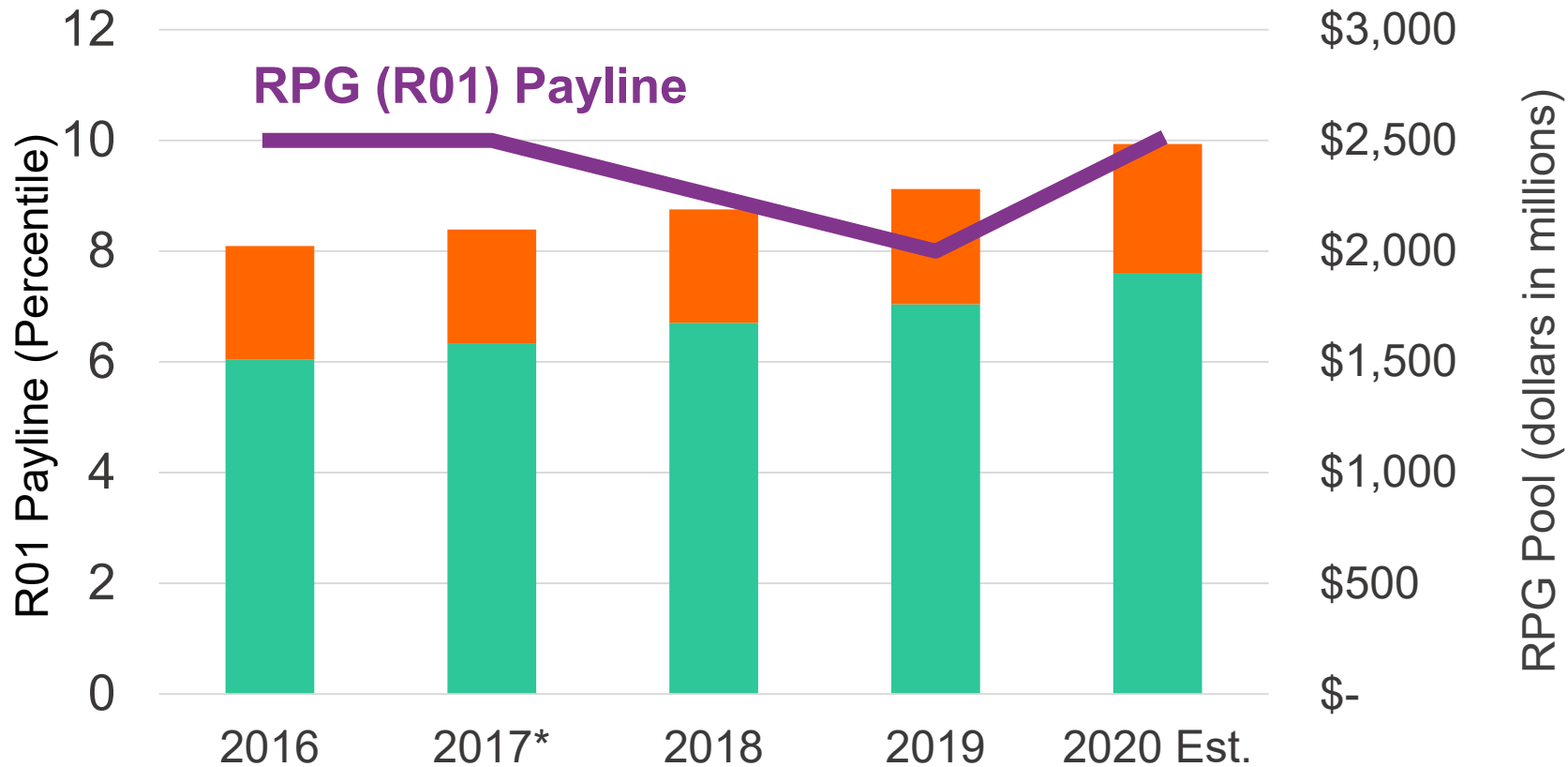
# More than \$210 Million Increase for Cancer Research and Training Across the U.S.

DIVISION A—DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES  
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020

*NCI Paylines.*—Grant applications to NCI have increased by approximately 50 percent since 2013, outpacing available funding, with requests for cancer research ten-fold greater than other Institutes. With such a high demand for NCI grants, only a fraction of this research is funded. To support more awards and improve success rates, the agreement provides \$212,500,000 to prioritize competing grants and sustain commitments to continuing grants.

- *Prioritize Competing Grants* - Increase payline for most grants from the 8th percentile to the 10th
- *Sustain Commitments* - Restore 2019's 3% cut to continuing grants

# NCI RPG Pool and R01 Payline – FY 2016-20



In addition to these RPGs, in FY19 NCI supported over \$1.1B of extramural research grants through non-RPG mechanisms, e.g.,

- Clinical trials (U10)
- Cancer Centers (P30)
- SPORES (U54)
- Training (F, K, T)

*Does not include SBIR/STTR or Admin Supplements*

*\*FY 2017 includes competing first-year costs and awards from Cancer Moonshot fully funded awards.*

# NCI Bottom Line: A Blog About Grants & More

New blog featuring 1-2 posts per month addressing:

- budget- and funding-related milestones
- funding trends and patterns
- emerging policy or fiscal issues
- analyses of NCI's grants portfolio

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

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This grantee-focused blog covers the latest on NCI's fiscal landscape, funding decisions, grants policy news, processes, and more.



### FY 2020 Budget Boost for NCI Increases Research Awards, Improves Paylines

January 16, 2020, by NCI Director, Dr. Norman E. Sharpless

For this edition of the NCI Bottom Line, NCI Director, Dr. Norman E. Sharpless provides an update to the fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget and what exactly that means for NCI, research awards and paylines. Dr. Sharpless further discusses the grant policies that surround both competing and noncompeting grants from NCI.

[Continue Reading >](#)

# New Leadership



**Oliver Bogler, Ph.D.**  
Director  
Center for Cancer Training



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

# Leadership Vacancies

## **Director, Division of Cancer Prevention (DCP)**

Debbie Winn, Acting

## **Director, Division of Cancer Biology**

Daniel Gallahan, Acting

# In the News: Undisclosed Support

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## Financial Conflicts of Interest

*Undisclosed payments or arrangements that can lead to the perception of biased research*

## Foreign influence

- *Shadow laboratories*
- *Misbehavior in peer review*
- *Ghost-written applications*
- *Transfer of IP*



## UNDISCLOSED SUPPORT

*Erosion of public trust in cancer research  
Scrutiny from media, Congress, taxpayers*



**Collaboration is a good thing...with transparency.**

# How NCI plans to help

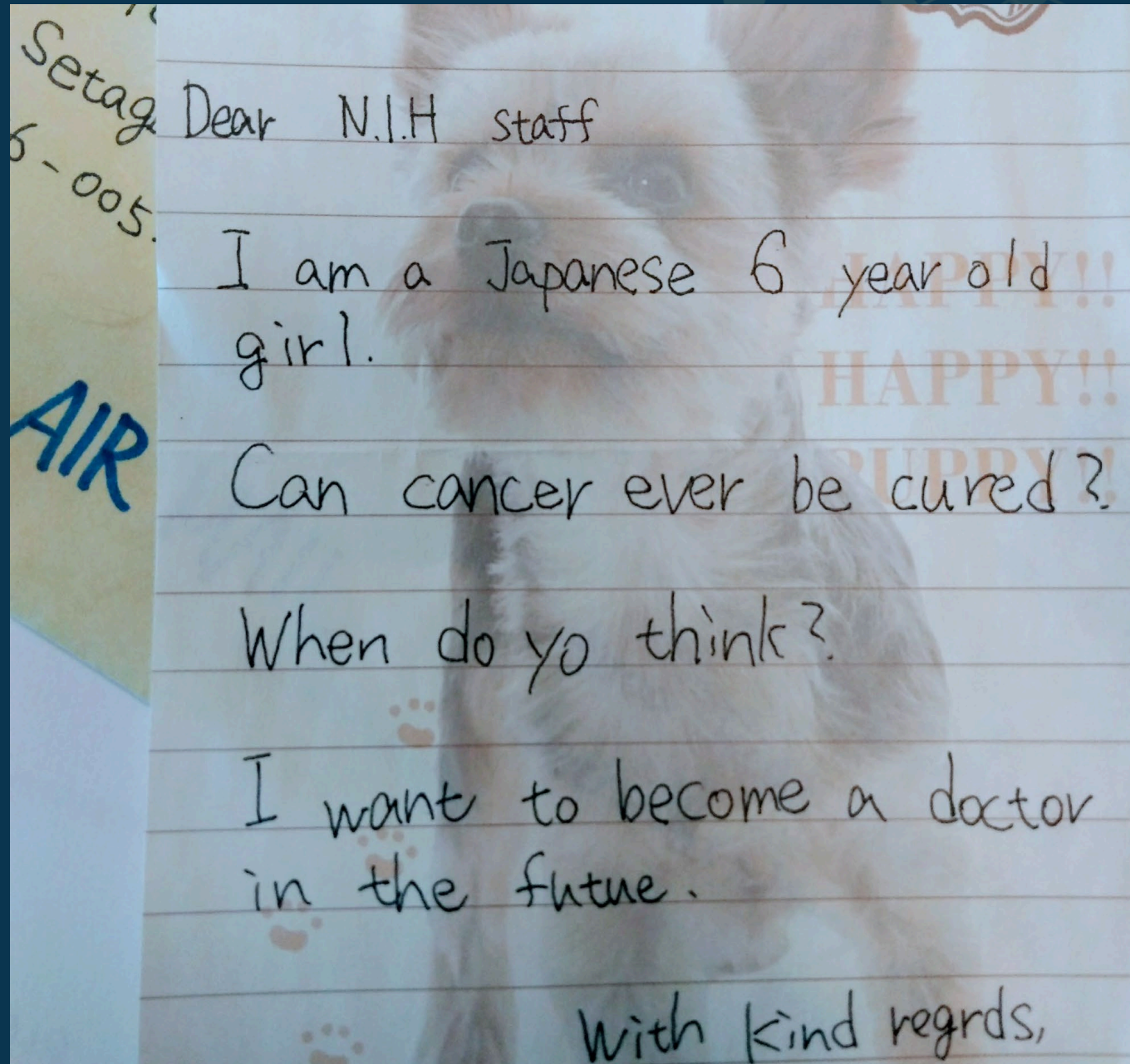
- We recognize that the vast majority of grantees want to comply and are fine with reporting **but it is confusing**.
  - Reporting similar but not identical information to multiple institutions and journals
  - Circumstances and policies may change over time
  - Reporting forms and systems have different requirements, timelines, platforms, passwords...
- We are having discussions with journals, AACR, ASCO, AACI and AAMC to identify options for a database that makes it easier to do the right thing.

## More to come

- Ongoing reviews: 180 individuals at 70+ institutions



**February 11  
International Day  
of Women and Girls  
in Science**





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