NCI Director’s Report
Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.

Virtual National Cancer Advisory Board Meeting
February 11, 2020
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males</th>
<th></th>
<th>Females</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2040</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>2040</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lung cancer mortality is decreasing faster than lung cancer incidence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Average annual percent change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Males</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence (2011-15)</td>
<td><strong>-2.6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (2012-16)</td>
<td><strong>-4.3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Females</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incidence (2011-15)</td>
<td><strong>-1.2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortality (2012-16)</td>
<td><strong>-3.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Incidence**: age standardized, delay-adjusted rate  
**Mortality**: age-standardized rate
Survival Trends in NSCLC & SCLC (Women)
SEER-18, 2001-2016

NON-SMALL CELL

2-Year Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Survival (%)
- 2001: 35%
- 2004: 37%
- 2007: 39%
- 2010: 41%
- 2013: 43%
- 2016: 44%

SMALL CELL

2-Year Small Cell Lung Cancer Survival (%)
- 2001: 14%
- 2004: 15%
- 2007: 16%
- 2010: 17%
- 2013: 17%
- 2016: 17%

Courtesy of Nadia Howlader, Ph.D., Data Analytics Branch, DCCPS, NCI
NCI Appropriations
FY 2015 – 2020 (in millions)

21st Century Cures Act - orange
Childhood Cancer Initiative - green

FY 2015
FY 2016
FY 2017
FY 2018
FY 2019
FY 2020

$4,950
$5,215
$5,689
$5,965
$6,144
$6,440

$0
$1,000
$2,000
$3,000
$4,000
$5,000
$6,000

$195
$50
$300
$400
$500
$6,245

Funding Source
White House OMB coordinates with federal agencies to formulate the President’s budget proposal

Congressional appropriations committees consider President’s proposal & prepare legislation

Congress reconciles & finalizes appropriations legislation & sends to the President

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

Appropriations Outlook

FY 2021
More than $210 Million Increase for Cancer Research and Training Across the U.S.

- **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 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.
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

Subscribe at cancer.gov.
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
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
Dear N.I.H staff

I am a Japanese 6 year old girl.

Can cancer ever be cured?

When do you think?

I want to become a doctor in the future.

With kind regards,