

# Pilot approach to identify NIH-funded cancer research involving African Americans and Blacks

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# Purpose

- Pilot an approach to identify NIH-funded cancer research projects involving African Americans and Blacks
- Not to be construed as a comprehensive or formal portfolio analysis at this point
- Conduct an initial screen for Working Group feedback
- Eventual goal is to use list of projects to enable portfolio analyses and understanding of the NIH-funded landscape to support the goals of the Working Group

# Approach

- Broad search intended to identify research that is potentially relevant to African Americans and Blacks
- All FY 2020 awarded grants included in the NIH Cancer category
  - Includes cancer research projects funded by other ICs
- The search uses the extracted, processed text of the title, abstract, and specific aims of each project

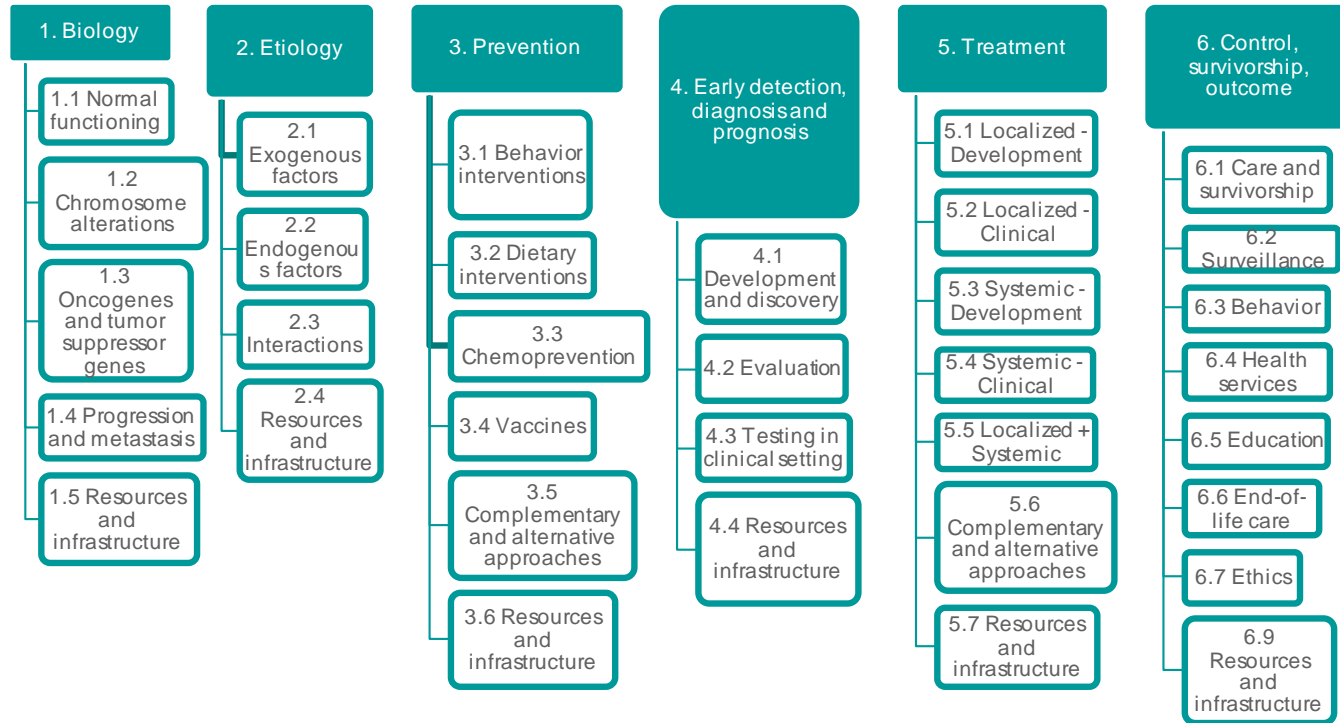
# Method

FY 2020 NIH awarded grants and subprojects were included if they were categorized as Cancer and included one of the following NIH [RCDC](#)\* terms or associated RCDC-defined synonyms in the Title, Abstract, or Specific Aims:

- African American (Afroamerican, Black American, Black populations)
  - African Caribbean (Black carib, Black Caribbean)
  - Black race
  - Black subgroup (Black ethnic subgroup)
  - Caribbean natives
  - Black/white disparity
  - African
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- Two automated project categorization schemes are provided: RCDC Cancer Types and Common Scientific Outline (CSO) codes (cancer continuum)
  - CRS staff manually reviewed the list to make initial suggestions for inclusion

\*Research, Condition, and Disease Categorization (RCDC) is a method used by the NIH to categorize projects - [https://report.nih.gov/categorical\\_spending.aspx](https://report.nih.gov/categorical_spending.aspx) 4

# Common Scientific Outline (CSO)



# Initial Manual Review of Projects

- An important step in this project will be a manual review to identify projects that are relevant to the Working Group goal
- A preliminary review was performed by NCI staff
  - Each project was put into one of three categories
    - Y: Considered relevant to AA/B populations
    - N: Considered not relevant to AA/B population
    - ?: Maybe: not enough information available in the text, or would depend on Working Group goals or inclusion criteria
  - Some projects removed from list
    - Conference grants
    - P30 Cancer Center support grants
    - Grants for workforce diversity (e.g., training grants) unless relevant research area

# Limitations

- Not to be construed as a comprehensive or formal portfolio analysis
- Separate from the framework for required NIH official reporting on Minority Health and Health Disparities
- Not included, because final info for FY 2020 not available yet
  - Contracts
  - Intramural projects
- Projects with text not readily available and searchable in the Title, Abstract, or Specific Aims (e.g., Clinical Trials within Networks) cannot be identified with this approach
  - These projects will need to be identified by alternative methods

## Additional Points to Consider

- Approach can be refined following input from a working group
  - A manual review may always be needed
- Similar approaches can be used for a wider spectrum of populations
- Approach presented here cannot be considered as a portfolio analysis of Health Disparities
  - Identification of a portfolio in Health Disparities may require a different approach



# Where We Are Now

- As a first step, NCI has identified a draft list of NIH extramural cancer grants that are potentially relevant to research in African American and Black populations
- This pilot illustrated the information could be assembled using existing systems with manual curation
- This was a broad screen using available NIH text and text-mining capabilities, and it is a starting point

# What could be done next

- With feedback and in collaboration with the NCAB subcommittee/Disparities working group the list can be used to
  - refine an approach
  - conduct a portfolio analysis
  - begin to generate an understanding of the landscape of the NIH-funded research landscape relevant to this population
- A landscape can be used to identify gaps and opportunities for further research on AA/B and for other minority and underserved populations
- Research agendas are needed for each minority and underserved group



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