

NCI Director's Report

Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.

*NCI Council of Research Advocates
July 16, 2020*

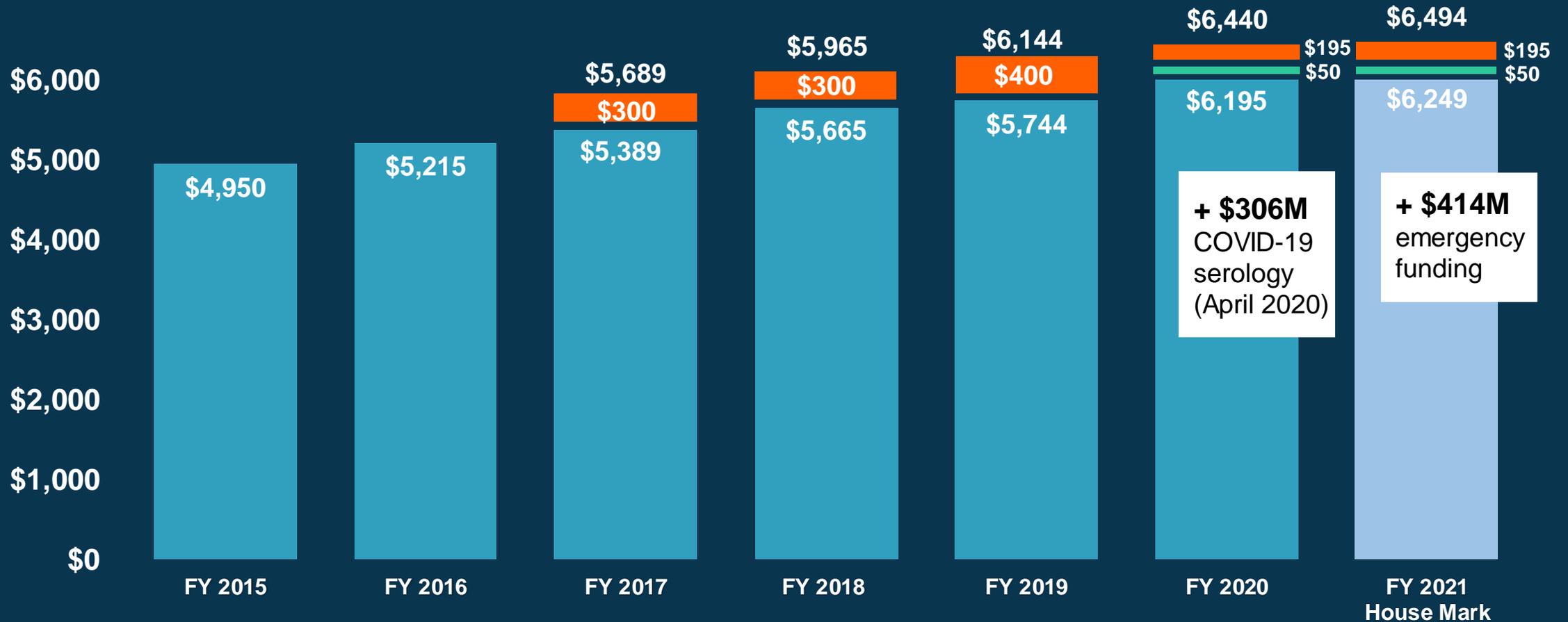
@NCIDirector
@TheNCI

Today's presentation

- Budget outlook
- NCI response to COVID-19
- Clinical Research Updates
- Addressing racial inequity in cancer research
- Q&A

NCI Appropriations FY 2015 – 2020 (in millions)

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



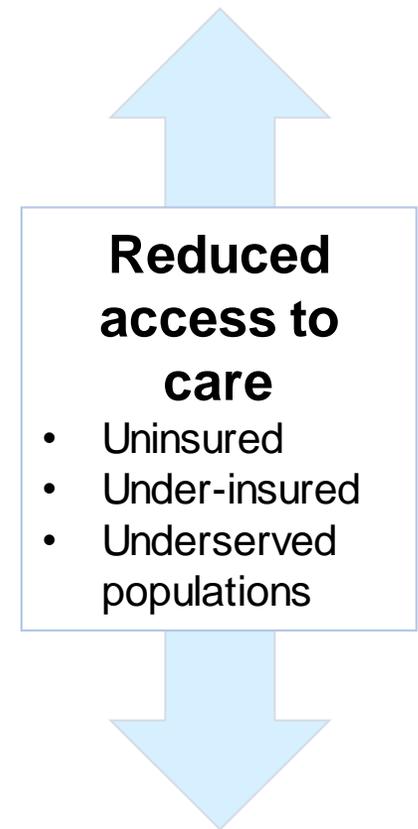
NCI Response to COVID-19

- SARS-CoV-2 serology research
- NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study (NCCAPS)
- Guidance for cancer clinical trials
- Flexibilities and opportunities for grantees
- Genomic studies of COVID-19 outcomes
- Trials of immunomodulatory agents for severe COVID-19 pneumonia

[*cancer.gov/coronavirus-researchers*](https://cancer.gov/coronavirus-researchers)

Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on long-term trends in cancer statistics

Delayed Diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced screening • Reduced follow-up on suspicious findings from screening • Reduced visits to address symptoms 	Treatment Delay Increased Mortality
Deferred Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponed surgery • Postponed radiation • Postponed chemotherapy 	Treatment Delay Increased Mortality
Reduced / Non-Standard care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less intense chemotherapy • Neo-adjuvant chemo instead of immediate surgery 	Reduced Response Increased Mortality



Science 19 June 2020

COVID-19 and cancer

The Washington Post

By Laurie McGinley

June 18, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. EDT

Nation's cancer chief warns delays in cancer care are likely to result in thousands of extra deaths in coming years

STAT

Ignoring cancer care now may trade one public health crisis — Covid-19 — for another, NCI chief warns

By ELIZABETH COONEY @cooney_liz / JUNE 19, 2020

abc NEWS

Pause in cancer treatments during COVID may cause other public health crisis

NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study (NCCAPS)



Home > News & Events > Cancer Currents Blog

How Does COVID-19 Affect People with Cancer? NCCAPS Will Help Find Out

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May 21, 2020, by James H. Doroshow, M.D.

With the sudden explosion of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all living with a great deal of fear, uncertainty, and anxiety. As an oncologist and cancer researcher, I know that those feelings are heightened for many people with cancer.

People with cancer are already facing the shock of a cancer diagnosis, the tribulations that accompany treatment, or the stress of survivorship. On top of that, we're learning that people with cancer may be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 because their cancer, or its treatment, has left them more vulnerable to complications.



NCI has launched a study called NCCAPS that will help scientists answer questions about COVID-19's impact on cancer patients and cancer's impact on the course of COVID-19.

Credit: iStock

NCTN

NCORP

ETCTN

AS OF JULY 7

612

TRIAL SITES
ACTIVATED IN

45

STATES

Flexibilities to support grantees during the pandemic

- ✓ Extending deadlines for applications
- ✓ Allowing institutions to use NCI grant funds to maintain salaries and stipends
- ✓ Extending project timelines and reporting requirements
- ✓ Extending eligibility periods for early-stage investigators and trainees
- ✓ Carryover for institutional training grants (T35, T32, K12) with prior approval

Emergency Support for Postdoctoral Fellows during COVID-19

Notice of Special Interest (NOSI): **NOT-CA-20-082**

Administrative supplements to cover salary for a postdoctoral fellow whose stipend support from a non-profit funder has been lost because of the COVID-19 global pandemic.



Adapting clinical trials during the pandemic

- Some study agents may be shipped to patients
- Patient care may be transferred to other study sites
- Some services can be provided by local providers, with oversight by responsible investigator
- “Remote” informed consent (telephone + signature)
- *Minor deviations*: study visits by telemedicine rather than in-person; delayed study visits; delayed lab or imaging tests; minimal treatment delays; biospecimen collections

Pembrolizumab for TMB-H tumors

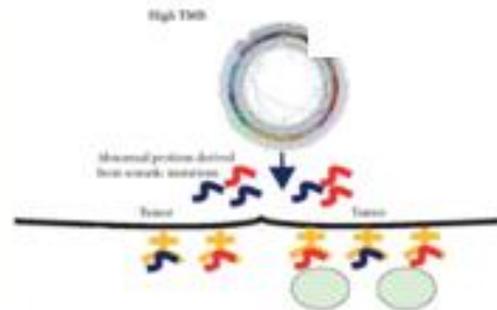


A New FDA Approval Furthers the Role of Genomics in Cancer Care

[Subscribe](#)

July 8, 2020, by Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.

A recent drug approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) marks another milestone in the treatment of cancer. The action by FDA expands the growing list of approved uses for the immune checkpoint inhibitor pembrolizumab (Keytruda).



FDA approves pembrolizumab for adults and children with TMB-H solid tumors

June 16, 2020

NCI-COG Pediatric MATCH



- Enrollment relatively unaffected by the pandemic
- 2 new arms (ivosidenib and tipifarnib) activated in June and July, and another coming soon
- 3 arms have met or will soon reach their accrual targets

Childhood Cancer Data Initiative

Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI) Working Group Report

Board of Scientific Advisors
Ad Hoc Working Group in Support of the
Childhood Cancer Data Initiative

Co-Chairs: Drs. Otis Brawley & Kevin Shannon
June 15, 2020



CCDI Activities Enhance NCI's Childhood and AYA Cancer Research

[Subscribe](#)

July 13, 2020, by Norman E. Sharpless, M.D.

In July 2019, researchers, advocates, and many others came together to brainstorm ways to develop more efficient and more effective means of collecting, analyzing, and sharing the data needed to speed progress against cancers that occur in children and adolescents and young adults (AYAs).

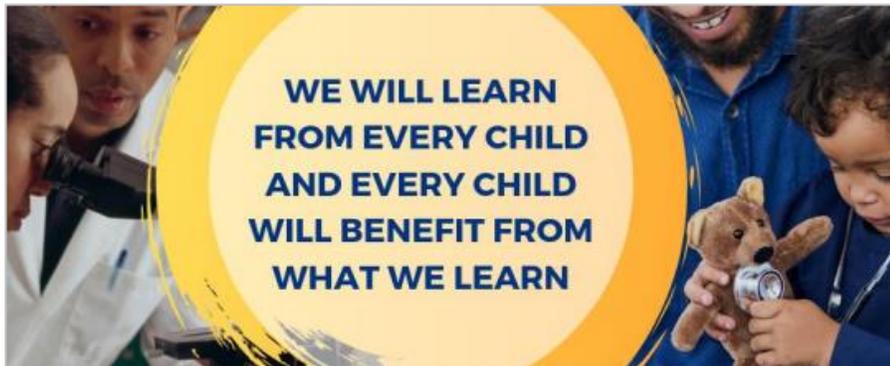
This effort served as one springboard for NCI's planning of the [Childhood Cancer Data Initiative \(CCDI\)](#), a \$50 million federal investment made in 2020, with an additional \$50 million proposed each year for the next 9 years.

Because cancers in children and AYAs are rare—representing approximately 4% of cancers



The goal of NCI's Childhood Cancer Data Initiative is to expand the breadth and quality of the data on pediatric and AYA cancers and make the data more accessible and easier to use for researchers.

Credit: iStock



Liver Cancer Screening



NCI Press Release

NIH scientists develop blood test to help improve liver cancer screening



Posted: June 11, 2020

Contact:
NCI Press Office
240-760-6600

NCI CCR LIVER CANCER PROGRAM

A multidisciplinary network of researchers and clinicians dedicated to improving early detection, diagnosis and treatment of liver cancer.

Cell



Article

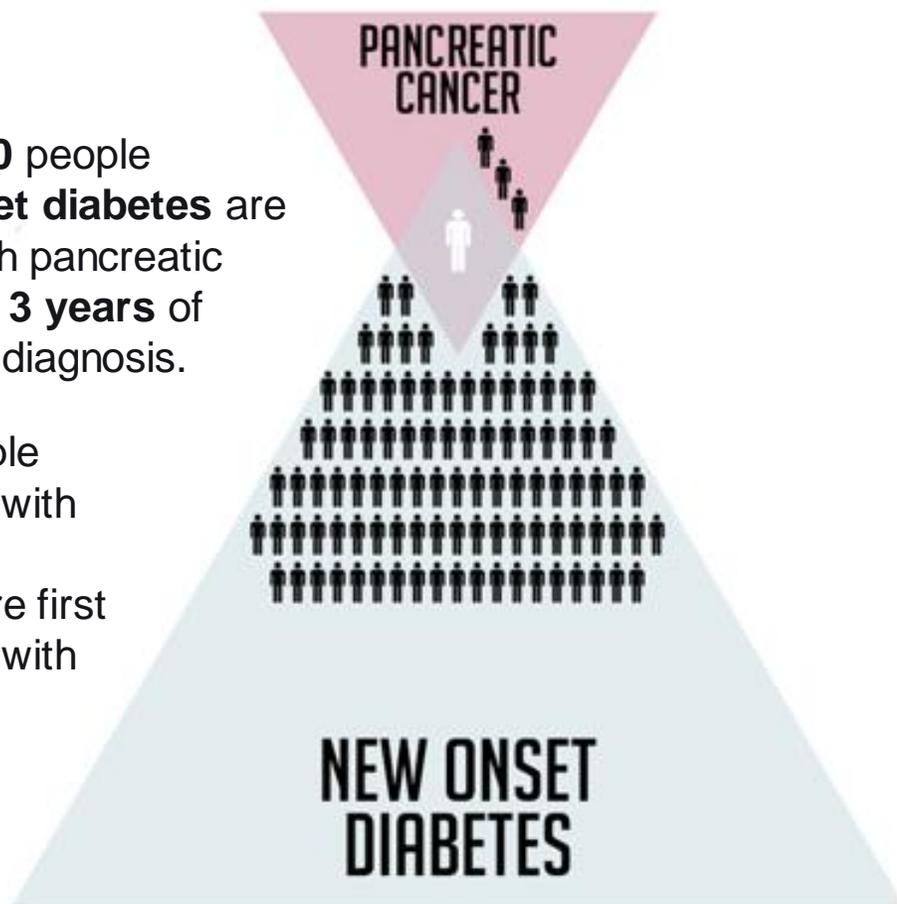
A Viral Exposure Signature Defines Early Onset of Hepatocellular Carcinoma

Jinping Liu,^{1,10} Wei Tang,^{2,10} Anuradha Budhu,^{1,3} Marshonna Forgues,¹ Maria O. Hernandez,¹ Julián Candia,¹ Yujin Kim,¹ Elise D. Bowman,¹ Stefan Ambs,² Yongmei Zhao,⁴ Bao Tran,⁴ Xiaolin Wu,⁴ Christopher Koh,⁵ Pallavi Surana,⁵ T. Jake Liang,⁵ Maria Guarnera,⁶ Dean Mann,⁶ Manoj Rajaure,⁷ Tim F. Greten,^{8,3} Zhanwei Wang,⁹ Herbert Yu,⁹ and Xin Wei Wang^{1,3,11,*}

Pancreatic Cancer & New Onset Diabetes

About **1 in 100** people with **new onset diabetes** are diagnosed with pancreatic cancer **within 3 years** of their diabetes diagnosis.

1 in 4 people diagnosed with pancreatic cancer were first diagnosed with diabetes.



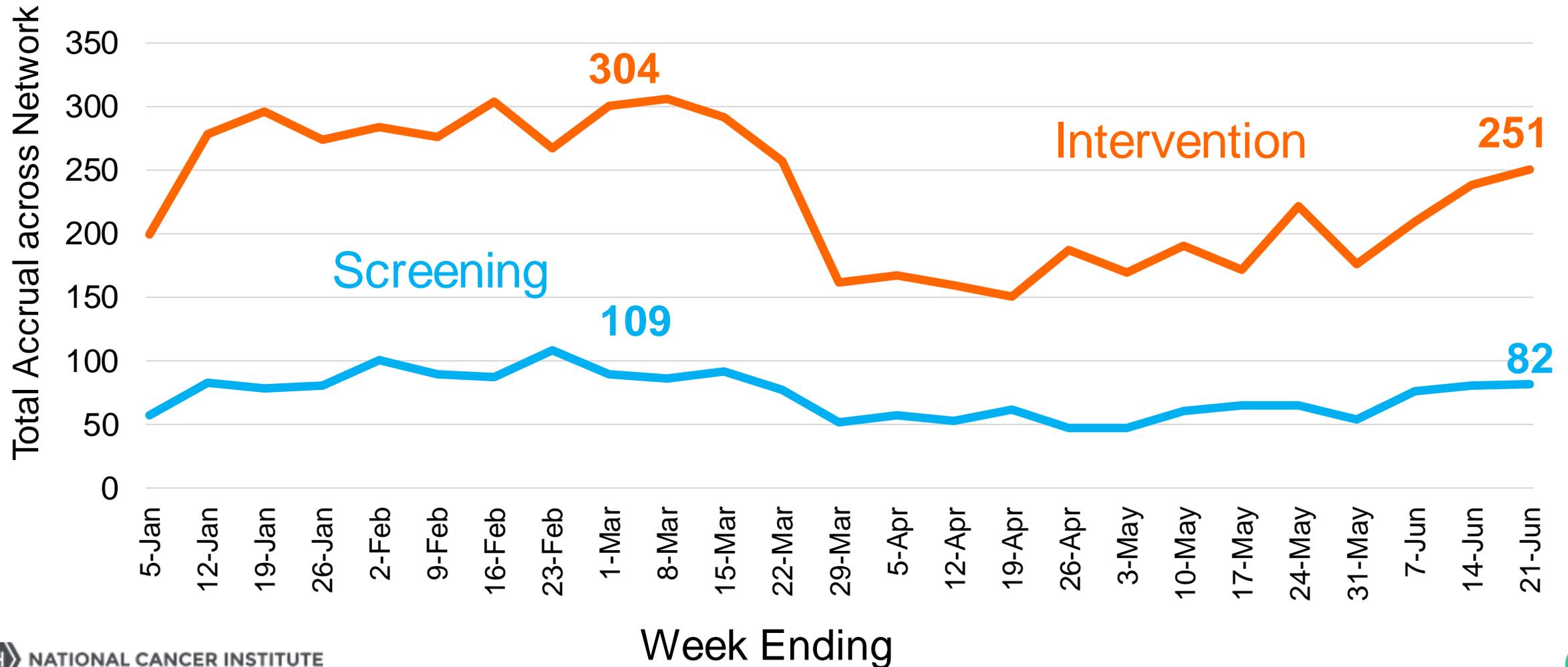
New Onset Diabetes Study

With the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Cohort study recruiting 10,000 people aged 50-85 with newly diagnosed diabetes

Enrolling at 12 sites in 9 states
Partnering with Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

NCI National Clinical Trials Network (NCTN) Accrual to “Screening” and “Intervention” Steps in Trials by week



NCI Efforts to Promote Racial Equity

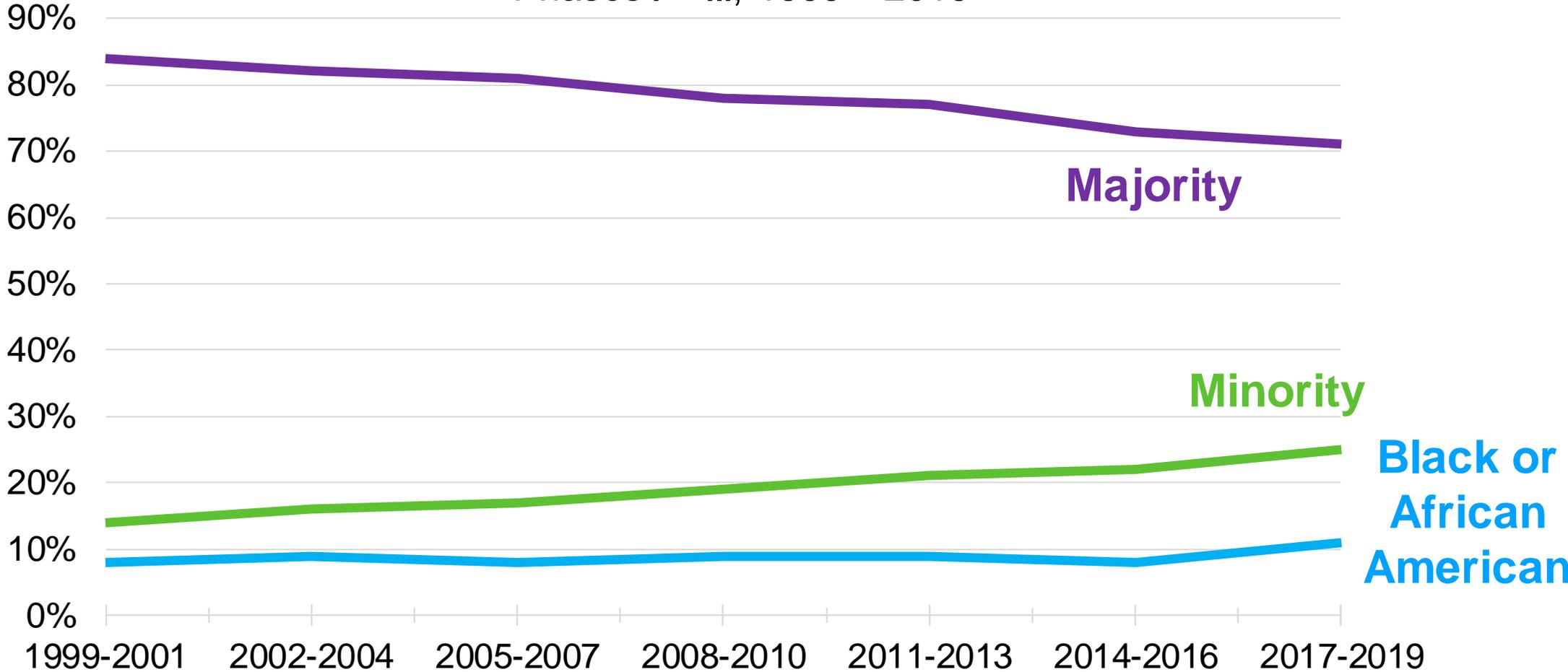
**Addressing
Cancer
Health
Disparities**

**Promoting
Workforce
Diversity**

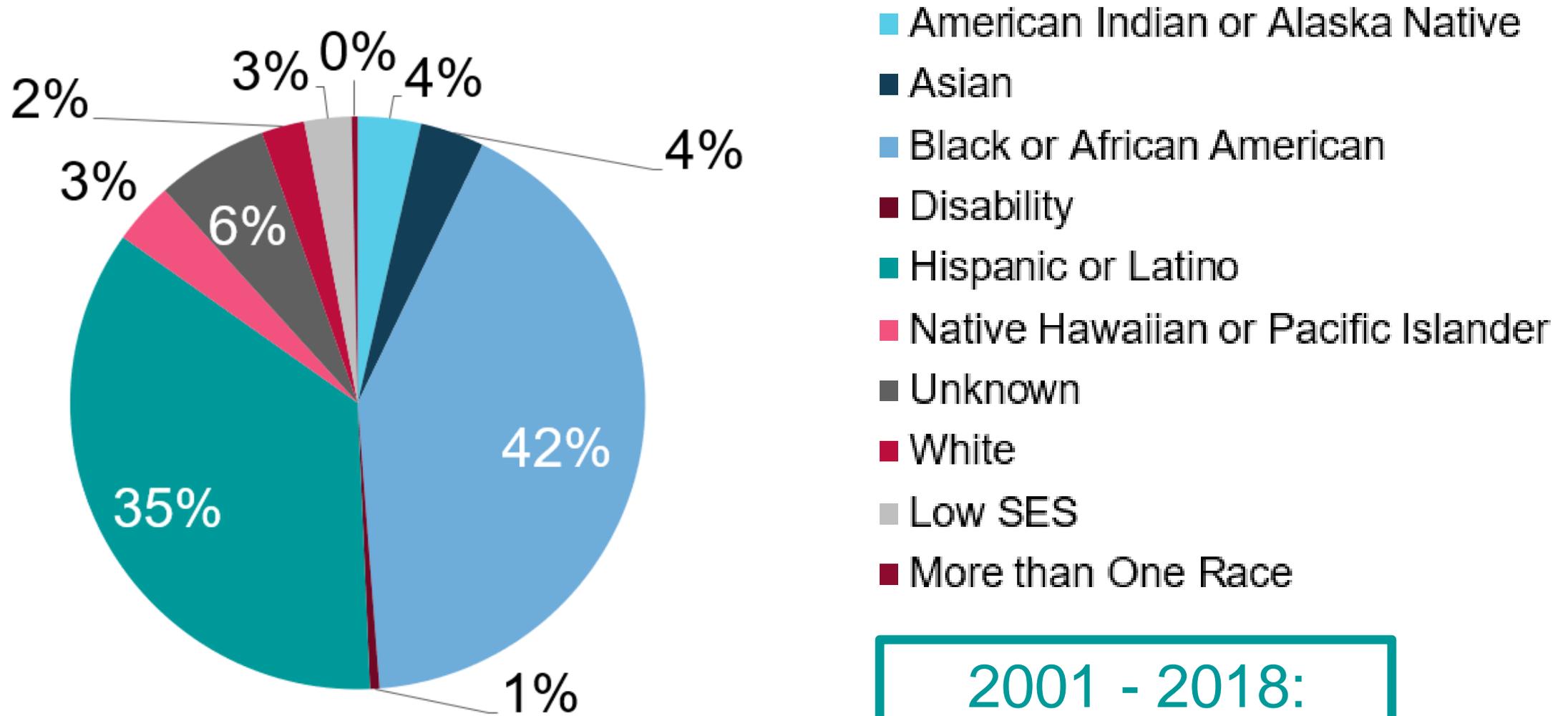
**Creating an
Inclusive
Culture at
NCI**

Minority accrual to clinical trials

Accrual to NCTN and NCORP trials (and predecessor programs)
Phases I – III, 1999 – 2019



Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE)



2001 - 2018:
4,753 Trainees

GUEST EDITORIAL



I COULD HAVE BEEN GEORGE FLOYD—MANY TIMES

REFLECTING ON THE CANCER OF RACISM

I am almost certain that no other director of an NCI-designated cancer center can claim the distinction of having had a gun pulled on them by police.



By **Robert A. Winn, MD**
Director, Virginia Commonwealth University Massey Cancer Center

GUEST EDITORIAL



I could have been George Floyd, too

The past ten days have seen an outpouring of emotions as American society, devastated by the tragic murder of George Floyd by four Minneapolis police officers, plunges into a crisis of conscience.



By **Otis W. Brawley, MD, MACP, FASCO, FACE**
*Bloomberg Distinguished Professor of Oncology and Epidemiology,
Johns Hopkins University*

Thank you!

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