

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

America's investment in cancer research has vastly expanded and deepened our understanding of the many diseases called cancer. Some of the genetic and environmental factors and biologic mechanisms that cause or contribute to cancer development, progression, and spread have been elucidated. This knowledge has led to the development of diverse interventions to reduce risk of cancer and more effectively treat some cancers, enabling many individuals to survive diseases that previously were almost universally fatal.

Although notable, these achievements do not obscure the fact that cancer prevention and cure remain largely elusive. Given the complex nature of cancer and the lack of screening methods to detect most types of cancer, progress against some cancers has been slower than for others. Between September 2010 and February 2011, the President's Cancer Panel (the Panel) convened four meetings to evaluate opportunities to accelerate the development of innovations with the potential to dramatically improve cancer outcomes. The Panel received testimony from 47 experts from the academic, industrial, not-for-profit, and public sectors. The speakers included basic, translational, clinical, and population science researchers and research program administrators; voluntary sector research sponsors; health and science policy specialists; representatives from the cancer advocacy community; professional and industry association representatives; and Federal Government regulators and administrators