Cancer Research Funding

In 2017, NIH funding produced over $68 billion in economic output nationwide according to the Milken Institute. Every $1 in grants from NIH generates $2.21 in economic growth across the U.S.

2019

1.76 million new cancer cases (4,800 new cases per day)

Roughly 1 million will be treated with radiation therapy

606,880 deaths from cancer (1,700 cancer deaths per day)

*Each figure represents 176,000 patients

Research Agenda

2019

Patient Reported Outcomes and Health Services Research
Normal Tissues and Reducing Side Effects
Big Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence
Imaging and Innovative Technologies
Tumor Microenvironment and Combination Therapies
Biomarkers, Radiation and the Cancer Genome

NCI predicts that there will be 20.3 million cancer survivors by 2026

Cures will come from combinations of treatments

Cancer mortality has decreased 27% over the past 25 years but disparities between genders and socioeconomic groups are widening. The total number of averted deaths is larger for men than women.

Less than 2% of NCI's budget goes to radiation oncology research.

Return on this investment is vast and affects every segment of our society.

Research has contributed to averting 2.4 million deaths.

NASA Spreads the Word About Cancer Research and Funding

Targeting Cancer Care
ASTRO applauds Congress’ long-standing support for biomedical research and funding for cancer research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The additional funding and structural improvement will help drive advancements in cancer treatment. The federal investment in cancer research has played a role in every major innovation in the fight against cancer, including significant advances in radiation oncology, and has led to a decline in the overall number of cancer deaths in the United States.

**BACKGROUND**

There will be an estimated 1.76 million new cancer cases (4,800 cases per day) diagnosed in 2019.

An estimated 606,800 people will die from cancer in 2019 (1,700 patients per day).

Cancer death rates are down 27% over the past 25 years (as of 2016). Research has contributed to averting 2.4 million cancer deaths (1.8 million in men; 825,000 in women). The total number of averted deaths is greater for men than women because the total decline in cancer mortality is steeper for men than women.

Uneven decreases in mortality between men and women and between poor versus wealthy socioeconomic groups are growing. This is especially true in preventable cancer types. It is estimated that approximately 34% of cancer deaths in the US (in those between 25 and 74 years) could be averted with the elimination of socioeconomic disparities.

Data show that treatments including combinations of radiation and drugs or immunotherapy are more effective than any single treatment alone, but many unanswered questions remain. ASTRO is prioritizing these questions, and other research topics outlined in our 2019 research agenda.

In 2017, NIH funding produced over $68 billion in economic output nationwide.

**CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST**

We are grateful for the bipartisan support that Congress has shown the NIH over the past four years. Despite the recent funding increases, NIH and NCI are still feeling the effects of 12 years of stagnant budgets that followed the end of the five-year doubling effort in FY 2003. If NIH funding had simply kept up with biomedical inflation since the end of the doubling, its budget would be 8.4%, or $3.6 billion higher than it is today. **We join the research community in requesting that Congress increase funding for NIH by at least $2.5 billion, for a total of $41.6 billion; and increase funding for NCI by $378 million, for a total of $6.5 billion.**