

INTERSECTION OF POLICY AND SCIENCE: ADVOCATING FOR FUNDING TO ADVANCE RESEARCH

HEALTH RESEARCH ALLIANCE MEMBERS' MEETING
September 17-18, 2017

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Geoffrey M. Wahl

George J. Weiner

Louis M. Weiner

Cheryl L. Willman

Douglas Yee

Robert C. Young

José Baselga, *ex officio*

Michael A. Caligiuri, *ex officio*

Nancy E. Davidson, *ex officio*

SPGA Subcommittees

- **Tobacco and Cancer**

Chaired by Roy S. Herbst, MD, PhD

- **Regulatory Science and Policy**

Chaired by Victor E. Velculescu, MD, PhD

- **Health Policy**

Chaired by Gilbert S. Omenn, MD, PhD

- **Cancer Health Disparities**

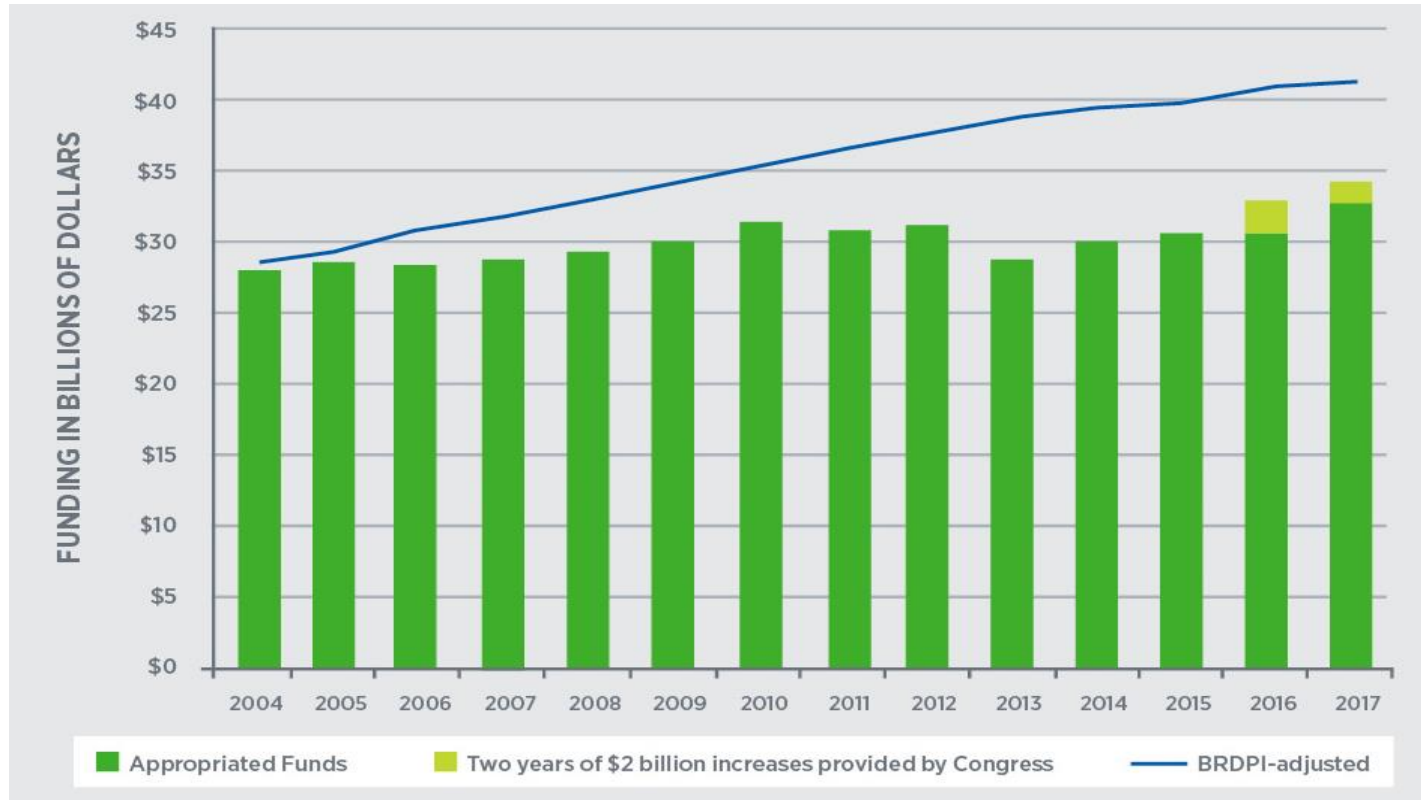
To be established this year



- Serve as an authoritative voice for important science and public policy issues
- Advocate for increased funding for cancer research and biomedical science
- Formulate policy recommendations for Congress and federal agencies (NIH, FDA, CMS, PCORI)
- Inform policymakers, scientists and the public through workshops and meetings, special briefings and conferences, and advocacy publications
- Identify regulatory science and policy areas where the AACR has the potential to stimulate positive change
- Build strong, productive alliances with research advocacy and patient advocacy groups



In FY 2016, NIH funding turned a corner, and we must sustain the momentum



Status of Appropriations: FY 2018



- The Trump Administration budget proposed **devastating cuts to NIH (\$5.8 billion, or nearly 20%)**
 - Proposed significant increase for defense spending (↑\$54 billion)
 - Proposed reducing non-defense discretionary spending (↓\$54 billion)

The AACR responded!



The screenshot shows the AACR logo and name at the top left. Below it are social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, and Blogger, followed by a 'DONATE' button. The date 'March 17, 2017' is on the right. The main image is a photograph of the White House. Below the image is the title 'The AACR Strongly Opposes the Draconian Cuts to Medical Research Proposed in President Trump's FY 2018 Budget'. The body text reads: 'On behalf of the entire cancer research community, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) was shocked to learn that the Trump Administration is proposing to cut \$5.8 billion from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget in fiscal year (FY) 2018. At a time when extraordinary progress is being made against cancer and many other diseases, these draconian cuts would set research back for decades and also threaten the careers of an entire generation of young investigators working in labs and clinics all over the country who are committed to improving public health and saving lives.'

- Special events at the Annual Meeting
- Capitol Hill Days for AACR leaders, patient advocates, early career scientists
- Local advocacy events with Congressional supporters and cancer centers
- Online tools, action alerts and social media engagement
- Rapid response in the media and in press statements
- Educational briefings to inspire support on Capitol Hill
- 5th Annual Rally for Medical Research!

WE NEED YOUR VOICES!

AACR Annual Meeting: Opening Session



At the end of the opening session at the AACR Annual Meeting, this display of unity in support of lifesaving cancer research was captured to show Congress that we are united in our belief that NIH funding should be a national priority.

AACR Annual Meeting Activities – Chairman Blunt Spoke at Opening Session



Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) is the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor-Health and Human Services-Education. A two-time cancer survivor who shared his story in the *2016 AACR Cancer Progress Report*, he has become one of the biggest champions on Capitol Hill for medical research. He has made robust, sustained, and predictable increases for the NIH a top priority.

AACR Annual Meeting Activities – Congressional Briefing


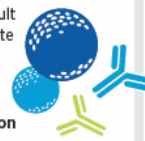
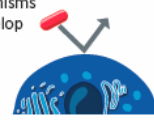

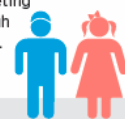



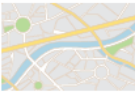

- **George D. Demetri, MD**, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA
- **Anna D. Barker, PhD**, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ
- **Chanita Hughes-Halbert, PhD**, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC
- **Andreana N. Holowatyj**, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
- **Jack Whelan**, Andover, MA



THE NATIONAL CANCER MOONSHOT INITIATIVE TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS AGAINST CANCER (2016)

- The National Cancer Moonshot Initiative (now titled the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot) seeks to double the rate of progress against cancer by achieving 10 years of progress in five years
- The initiative was led by Vice President Joe Biden and a federal interagency task force
- This ambitious report has inspired the entire cancer community to tackle the complexities of cancer through innovative strategies
- Cross-cutting themes include the development of a national network of patient biological and clinical outcomes data, prevention, health disparities research, biomarkers, preclinical models, new technologies, collaborations across sectors, and public-private partnerships

BLUE RIBBON PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Network for direct patient engagement**
Encourages patients to have their tumor genome sequenced, automatically shares the results through a network of linked databases, and enables clinical trial enrollment when appropriate. 
- 2. Cancer immunotherapy clinical trials network**
A network of clinical trials in adult and pediatric patients to evaluate immunotherapies and vaccines. 
- 3. Therapeutic target identification to overcome drug resistance**
Methods to identify mechanisms of drug resistance and develop therapeutic strategies to prevent and overcome it. 
- 4. A national cancer data ecosystem for sharing and analysis**
Develops the computational and bioinformatic infrastructure necessary to share any kind of data with anyone while maintaining privacy and security. 
- 5. Fusion oncoproteins in pediatric cancer**
Develop new therapeutics targeting pediatric fusion proteins through the use of new research models. 
- 6. Symptom management research**
Use patient reported outcomes to develop evidence-based guidelines to manage patient symptoms throughout the course of clinical care. 
- 7. Prevention and early detection: Implementation of evidence-based approaches**
Use research to discover, test, and implement strategies to reduce cancer risk, with an initial focus on fully executing established risk-reduction strategies. 
- 8. Retrospective analysis of biospecimens from patients treated with standard of care**
Analyze existing and future samples from patients receiving standard of care to enable the precise use of standard treatments and catalyze additional research. 
- 9. Generation of human tumor atlases**
Develop comprehensive maps of all of the alterations within as many different tumors as possible to fully enable precision medicine. 
- 10. Development of new enabling cancer technologies**
The new technologies will be used to enable further discoveries and improve patient care. 

National Cancer Moonshot Initiative Reports

- **Sept. 7, 2016:** Report of the NCI Blue Ribbon Panel
- **Oct. 17, 2016:** Report of the Interagency Task Force
- **Oct. 17, 2016:** Vice President Biden's Executive Report to the President



Congressional Briefing on the National Cancer “Moonshot” Initiative



Last year (on June 28, 2016), the AACR hosted a congressional briefing titled, "*Seizing Today's Opportunities to Accelerate Cancer Research*," which drew a standing room-only crowd. It highlighted the research priorities of the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative and shared the fresh perspectives of early-career investigators. Speakers at the briefing included **NCI Acting Director Douglas Lowy, MD**; **AACR President Nancy Davidson, MD**; **AACR Chief Executive Officer Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)**.



Special Sessions and Events at the 2017 AACR Annual Meeting

Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot: Progress and Promise Monday, April 3, 2017, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.



- **Former Vice President Joe Biden**
- **Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao**
- **Actress Fran Drescher**
- **Doug Lowy, MD, Acting Director, NCI**
- **Rick Pazdur, MD, Director, FDA Oncology Center of Excellence**
- **Representative Kevin Yoder (R-KS)**
- **Roger Dansey, MD, Senior Vice President Global Clinical Development Oncology, Merck Research Laboratories**

AACR Early-career Hill Day: March 1, 2017



Local Advocacy Event: March 6, 2017



The AACR partnered with Representative Donald Payne, Jr (D-NJ), Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey, and University Hospitals to host a roundtable discussion on cancer research and prevention in Newark, NJ.

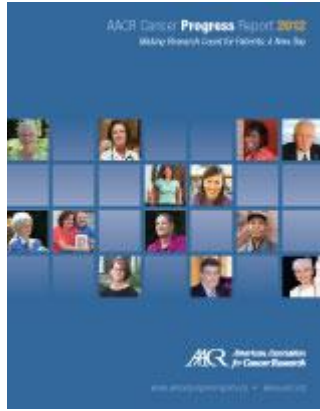
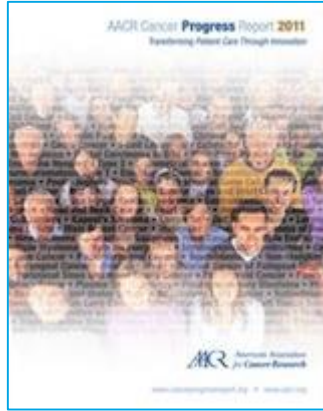
AACR-AACI-ASCO Joint Hill Day

This year's event took place on May 4, 2017.



KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

AACR CANCER PROGRESS REPORT SERIES



- The AACR Cancer Progress Report captures progress against cancer in a given year
- Emphasizes how progress is benefiting cancer patients
- Its principal goals are: scientific communication, education, and advocacy
- The seventh edition was released in Washington, DC on September 13, 2017

AACR Cancer Progress Report 2016 Congressional Briefing



The AACR unveiled the Cancer Progress Report 2016 at a briefing on Capitol Hill. Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Rep. Donald Payne, Jr. (D-NJ) shared their perspectives in this year's report, along with eight cancer survivors.



AACR Cancer Progress Report 2016 White House Meeting



- Following the Capitol Hill briefing, the AACR leaders and survivors met with Vice President Biden's senior staff at the White House staff to deliver the report.
- (And met President Obama's dogs!)

AACR: FOUNDING SPONSOR OF THE RALLY FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH (2013)



2016 Rally for Medical Research Reception



On the evening prior to the Rally Hill Day, a reception to celebrate medical research was held on Capitol Hill, which featured remarks from **NIH Director, Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD**; **Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY)**, the Ranking Member on the House Committee on Appropriations; **Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-KS)**, also a member of the Appropriations Committee; **Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)** and **Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ)**, both members of the House Energy & Commerce Committee



2016 Rally for Medical Research Hill Day



This community-wide event, organized by the AACR, grows every year, with more than 350 organizations currently signed on as “partners.”

The 2017 Rally for Medical Research Hill Day took place on September 14, 2017.

AACR SCIENTIST↔SURVIVOR PROGRAM

- Was launched in 1999 at AACR Annual Meeting
- Unique program designed to build bridges and unity between the leaders of the scientific and cancer survivor and patient advocacy communities
- Develop collaborations among scientists and advocates to address issues in survivorship, quality of life, and science and public policy
- Increase participation in clinical trials, improve the design of clinical trials, and increase the number of effective cancer drugs
- Facilitate access to cancer information for the general public, high-risk individuals, and minority and medically underserved populations



Scientist ↔ Survivor Program



- At the AACR Annual Meeting, survivor and patient advocates discuss relevant and timely cancer topics during small group meetings, roundtable discussions and meetings with scientific mentors
- AACR encourages SSP members to participate in the May Hill Day and Rally for Medical Research Hill Day.



PROGRESS REQUIRES COLLABORATIONS ACROSS AN ARRAY OF STAKEHOLDERS AND SECTORS

academic and government researchers from a diverse array of specialties;



health care providers;



regulators;



biotechnology, pharmaceutical, diagnostics, and medical device companies;



individual citizen advocates and members of advocacy groups;



philanthropic organizations and cancer-focused foundations;



federal funding organizations; and



patients, survivors, and their caregivers, family members, and friends;



policymakers;



payers.



AACR Representation on Other Policy Related Organizations and Coalitions

- National Cancer Policy Forum
- Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research (Steering Committee)
- One Voice Against Cancer (Steering Committee)
- National Coalition for Cancer Research (Board of Directors)
- Alliance for a Stronger FDA
- Personalized Medicine Coalition (PMC)
- Partnership to Improve Patient Care (PIPC)
- Research!America
- Friends of Cancer Research (Officer and Board Member)
- Turning the Tide Coalition (with PMC and Feinstein Kean Healthcare)
- Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids PARTNERS Coalition
- International Consortium for Action and Research on Tobacco
- Cancer Innovation Council
- Alliance for Childhood Cancer