

The  
N•C•C•R



February 3, 2009

A coalition of cancer organizations  
joining together to advocate for  
cancer research

Member Organizations

*Albert and Mary  
Lasker Foundation*

*American Association  
for Cancer Research*

*American Cancer Society, Inc.*

*American College  
of Radiology*

*American Society for Therapeutic  
Radiology and Oncology*

*American Society of  
Clinical Oncology*

*American Society  
of Hematology*

*Association of American  
Cancer Institutes*

*Cancer Research  
and Prevention Foundation*

*Cancer Treatment  
Research Foundation*

*Candlelighters  
Childhood Cancer  
Foundation*

*Coalition of Cancer  
Cooperative Groups*

*CureSearch National  
Childhood Cancer Foundation*

*International Cancer  
Advocacy Network*

*International Myeloma Foundation*

*Kidney Cancer Association*

*The Leukemia and  
Lymphoma Society*

*The Lustgarten Foundation for  
Pancreatic Cancer Research*

*Oncology Nursing Society*

*Pancreatic Cancer Action Network  
PanCAN*

*Prostate Cancer Foundation*

*Radiation Research Society*

*Society of Nuclear Medicine*

*The Society of  
Gynecologic Oncologists*

*The V Foundation for  
Cancer Research*

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The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-221 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
S-230 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

The National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR) is a coalition of 24 national cancer research, cancer care and patient organizations representing cancer patients, survivors and families; cancer researchers, nurses and physicians; and cancer hospitals, centers, clinics and specialized research institutions. The NCCR directs its efforts toward educating public officials and policy makers about the impact of specific federal legislation, regulations and public policy on cancer research.

The undersigned member organizations are writing to express our strong support for the Specter/Harkin/Durbin amendment to H.R. 1, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009," that would increase to \$10 billion funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

NCCR understands and appreciates the budgetary constraints currently facing our nation. However, NCCR also believes that advances in biomedical research must remain a very high national priority. While significant advances have been made in research and treatment for the more than 200 diseases we know as cancer, it remains one of the most urgent health care issues facing our country. Cancer is now the second leading cause of death in the United States. One in two males and one in three females in the United States will develop cancer in their lifetime. In 2008, the American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 1.44 million of our citizens will be informed they have cancer and 566,000 Americans are expected to die from the disease.

While these statistics are truly sobering, the overall 5-year relative cancer survival rates have doubled since 1971, with rates varying greatly by cancer type and stage of diagnosis. The American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 10.8 million Americans with a history of cancer were alive in January, 2004. Furthermore, advances in biomedical research have led to the development of targeted cancer therapies that are helping many cancer patients live longer and more productive lives.

With the tremendous advances being made in cancer research, a sustained national agenda is vital if this progress is to continue. Even with the generous support from Congress, the National Cancer Institute is only able to fund approximately one out of every six of all peer-reviewed and approved research project grants. Critical additional funding is urgently needed in order to support basic, clinical and translational research that will lead to the development of new cancer therapies and technologies.

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Furthermore, a sustained investment in biomedical research will contribute to the economic health of our nation by producing high-wage jobs, an increased output of goods and services, and it will enable the United States to maintain its dominance in the medical technology industry.

We note that on September 9, 2008, NIH Director Dr. Elias A. Zerhouni testified before the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, "I have never witnessed in my career such a rapid pace of new and extraordinary discoveries." This statement exemplifies the need for a bold recommitment to biomedical research funded through NIH.

We respectfully request that you and your bipartisan Senate colleagues support the amendment to increase funding to \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health in the economic stimulus legislation.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Association for Cancer Research  
American College of Radiology  
American Society of Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Hematology  
American Society for Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology  
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The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
The Lustgarten Foundation for Pancreatic Cancer Research  
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Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PanCAN)  
Prevent Cancer Foundation  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Radiation Research Society  
The Society of Gynecologic Oncologists  
The V Foundation for Cancer Research