

November 14, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Vice-Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear House and Senate Appropriations Leaders:

As current and former Presidents of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), which is the world's first and largest scientific organization dedicated to progress against cancer for the benefit of patients, **we respectfully urge you to work in a bipartisan manner to pass final, fiscal year (FY) 2015 spending legislation before the end of the year that restores funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to, at a minimum, pre-sequestration levels.**

The mission of the AACR is to prevent and cure cancer through research, education, communication, and collaboration. The membership of the AACR, which includes more than 35,000 basic, translational, and clinical researchers, other health care professionals, and patient

advocates residing in the U.S. as well as 96 other countries around the world, is united in its dedication to accelerating progress in the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

As scientists and physician scientists with expertise in all of the subfields of cancer research and biomedical science – from the laboratory to the clinic and including science and public policy, we strongly believe that there has never been a better time to seize the opportunity to invest in the NIH and the NCI. Just consider, for example, how the information that was obtained from the NIH-supported Human Genome Project is revolutionizing the cancer field today. The research opportunities that have stemmed from this project are leading to the development of therapies that are designed to precisely target the unique features of an individual's cancer.

The [*AACR Cancer Progress Report 2014*](#) underscores the importance of NIH and NCI support for basic, translational, and clinical research, which has resulted in:

- An estimated 14 million cancer survivors living today in the United States; and,
- More than 1 million fewer cancer deaths in our Nation since 1990 as a result of declining mortality rates.

Moreover, the vigorous pursuit of new breakthroughs in cancer research and biomedical science serves as one of our country's primary paths to innovation, global competitiveness, and economic growth. NIH supports research in every state and in nearly every congressional district. In fact, it has been estimated that every \$1 invested in the NIH returns \$2.21 to local economies.

Over 1.6 million Americans are projected to receive a cancer diagnosis in this year alone, and these individuals are depending on expert scientists to make available the most effective treatments for their disease. However, despite its enormous human and economic value, our nation's support for medical research has been in a state of decline for more than a decade, and outright cuts in 2011 and 2013 have further reduced funding for both NIH and NCI. This has resulted in a notable reduction in both the number of new grants funded, and in overall funding for existing grants. Furthermore, an untold number of meritorious, innovative proposals have been left on the table as the "success rate" for an investigator seeking funding from the NIH has reached an all-time low. When taking into account inflation, the NIH has lost nearly 25% of its budget since 2003, threatening our Nation's position as the world leader in research and development.

With cancer remaining a formidable opponent, this is not the time for the NIH and NCI budgets to be in retreat. In their lifetimes, one in two men and one in three women will be diagnosed with cancer. It is expected to claim the lives of more than 580,000 Americans this year alone, one person every minute of every day. In addition, cancer's toll on patients, as well as their families, friends, and co-workers, is devastating and immeasurable, and the economic impact of the disease on our Nation totals more than \$216 billion each year.

Rededicating our country to the promise of medical research requires strong leadership from Congress and the administration. Therefore, during the upcoming lame duck session of Congress, we ask that you pass a FY 2015 spending bill that restores the budgets of the NIH and

the NCI to, at a minimum, pre-sequester levels. Doing so would be an important step toward putting the NIH and the NCI back on a path of predictable growth, which is critical if we are to increase the pace of progress in cancer research and bring new therapies to the patients who are depending on them.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Alliance of AACR Presidents

President 2014-2015

Carlos L. Arteaga, M.D.
Director, Breast Program and SPORE and
Center for Cancer Targeted Therapies
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
Nashville, TN

President 2013-2014

Charles L. Sawyers, M.D.
Chair
Human Oncology and Pathogenesis Program
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
New York, NY

President 2012-2013

Frank McCormick, Ph.D., FRS, D.Sc. (hon.)
Professor Emeritus
UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive
Cancer Center
San Francisco, CA

President 2011-2012

Judy E. Garber, M.D., M.P.H.
Director
Center for Cancer Genetics and Prevention
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School
Boston, MA

President 2010-2011

Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Ph.D.
Morris Herzstein Endowed Chair in Biology &
Physiology
University of California, San Francisco
San Francisco, CA

President 2009-2010

Tyler Jacks, Ph.D.
Director, David H. Koch Institute for Integrative
Cancer Research at MIT
Cambridge, MA

President 2008-2009

Raymond N. DuBois, M.D., Ph.D.
Executive Director, Biodesign Institute
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ

President 2007-2008

William N. Hait, M.D., Ph.D.
Global Head
Janssen Research & Development, LLC
Raritan, NJ

President 2006-2007

Geoffrey M. Wahl, Ph.D.
Daniel and Martina Lewis Chair
Gene Expression Laboratory
The Salk Institute
La Jolla, CA

President 2005-2006

Peter A. Jones, D.Sc., Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor of Urology, Biochemistry
and Molecular Biology
USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center
Los Angeles, CA

President 2004-2005

Lynn M. Matrisian, Ph.D.
Vice President, Scientific and Medical Affairs
Pancreatic Cancer Action Network
Manhattan Beach, CA

President 2003-2004

Karen H. Antman, M.D.
Provost, Boston University Medical Campus
Dean, School of Medicine
Boston University
Boston, MA

President 2002-2003
Susan Band Horwitz, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor
Department of Molecular Pharmacology
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Bronx, NY

President 2001-2002
Waun Ki Hong, M.D.
Professor and Head, Division of Cancer Medicine
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

President 2000-2001
Tom Curran, Ph.D.
Deputy Scientific Director
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Research Institute
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

President 1999-2000
Daniel D. Von Hoff, M.D.
Physician in Chief, Clinical Research
TGen
Phoenix, AZ

President 1998-1999
Webster K. Cavenee, Ph.D.
Director, Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research
University of California, San Diego
San Diego, CA

President 1997-1998
Donald S. Coffey, Ph.D.
Catherine Iola and J. Smith Michael Distinguished
Professor of Urology
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Baltimore, MD

President 1996-1997
Louise C. Strong, M.D.
Professor and Sue and Radcliffe Killam Chair
Department of Genetics
UT MD Anderson Cancer Center
Houston, TX

President 1995-1996
Joseph R. Bertino, M.D.
American Cancer Society Professor
Chief Scientific Officer
The Cancer Institute of New Jersey/RWJMS
New Brunswick, NJ

President 1993-1994
Margaret L. Kripke, Ph.D.
Vivian L. Smith Distinguished Chair and Professor
in Immunology Emerita
Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas
Austin, TX

President 1992-1993
Lee M. Wattenberg, M.D.
Emeritus Professor
Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathology
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, MN

President 1991-1992
Harold L. Moses, M.D.
Director Emeritus
Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center
Nashville, TN

President 1988-1989
Lawrence A. Loeb, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Pathology
University of Washington School of Medicine
Seattle, WA

President 1987-1988
Enrico Mihich, M.D.
Presidential Scholar & Special Assistant to the
President for Sponsored Research
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, MA

President 1986-1987
Alan C. Sartorelli, Ph.D. (agreed to sign all of
future joint letters on behalf of Alliance of AACR
Presidents)
Professor, Department of Pharmacology
Yale University School of Medicine
New Haven, CT

President 1985-1986
Arthur B. Pardee, Ph.D.
Professor, Biological Chemistry and Molecular
Pharmacology Emeritus
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Boston, MA

President 1984-1985

Isaiah J. Fidler, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Cancer Biology

R.E. "Bob" Smith Distinguished Chair in Cell
Biology

UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Houston, TX

President 1980-1981

Bayard D. Clarkson, M.D.

Member & Head

Laboratory of Hematopoietic Cell Kinetics

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center

New York, NY

President 1970-1971

James F. Holland, M.D.

Distinguished Professor of Neoplastic Diseases

Mount Sinai School of Medicine

New York, NY

President 1963-1964

Arthur C. Upton, M.D. (h.c.)

Emeritus Professor, Environmental and

Community Medicine

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Santa Fe, NM