



## 2020 AACR-AACI Virtual Hill Day

### PRIMARY MESSAGES

- Thank Congress for its bipartisan support for cancer research and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), **specifically** for providing a \$2.6 billion increase for the NIH in FY20.
- Emphasize the heightened importance of proactive investment in our nation's health, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ask Congress to provide at least **\$10 billion** for the NIH in the next COVID-19 supplemental package to restart research, including clinical trials that have been put on hold due to the pandemic.
- Ask Congress to continue to prioritize funding for medical research and provide **\$44.7 billion (a \$3 billion increase)** for the NIH in FY21. Fulfilling this request would allow for continued, real growth above inflation for medical research and support promising science in all areas. This request also ensures the additional funds made available through 21st Century Cures Act for the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot and other targeted initiatives supplement the NIH base budget.
- Specifically, ask Congress to increase funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to at least **\$6.9 billion in FY21**. This request is supported by the NCI's professional judgment budget, submitted each year to Congress. (You will have a summary of this document in your packets.)
- If applicable, thank the Representative or Senator for signing onto the recent Dear Colleague letter in support of the NIH. The House letter called for an increase of at least \$44.7 billion for the NIH in FY 2021, which aligns with the AACR/AACI ask. The Senate letter asks for appropriators to continue a sustained investment in NIH funding. (If the Member signed onto the letter, it will be noted on your schedule.)



## **SUPPORTING POINTS**

- Stress that research is our best defense against not only cancer but also another global pandemic.
- Remind them that prioritizing funding for the NIH and National Cancer Institute (NCI) is the only way we will seize the unparalleled scientific opportunities and momentum in cancer research today. Robust, sustained and predictable growth in funding is paramount to overcoming the challenges we face in preventing, detecting, and treating this complex disease, and is essential if we are to make continued advances in patient care.
- Explain the importance of increased funding for the NIH and NCI by using a specific project in your institution or practice as an example. If you are a patient advocate/survivor, share your personal experience with cancer and the importance of research.