

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE
22nd VIRTUAL NATIONAL CANCER ADVISORY BOARD**

**Summary of Meeting
10 June 2025**

**Virtual Meeting
National Cancer Institute
National Institutes of Health
Bethesda, Maryland**

NATIONAL CANCER ADVISORY BOARD
BETHESDA, MARYLAND
Summary of Meeting
10 June 2025

The National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB) convened for its 22nd virtual meeting on 10 June 2025. The meeting was open to the public on Tuesday, 10 June 2025, from 1:30 p.m. to 1:55 p.m. and closed to the public from 1:55 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The NCAB Chair, Dr. John D. Carpten, Director, Comprehensive Cancer Center, Director and Chief Science Officer, Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope, presided during both the open and closed sessions.

NCAB Members

Dr. John D. Carpten (Chair)
Ms. Margaret Anne Anderson (absent)
Dr. Nilofer S. Azad (absent)
Dr. Richard J. Boxer (absent)
Dr. Callisia N. Clarke
Ms. Ysabel Duron
Dr. Karen M. Emmons
Ms. Tamika Felder
Dr. Christopher R. Friese
Ms. Julie Papanek Grant
Dr. Amy B. Heimberger
Dr. Ana Navas-Acien (absent)
Dr. Edjah K. Nduom
Dr. Kimberly Stegmaier
Dr. Fred K. Tabung
Dr. Ashani T. Weeraratna
Dr. Karen M. Winkfield

President's Cancer Panel

Dr. Mitchel S. Berger (absent)
Dr. Carol L. Brown

Alternate *Ex Officio* NCAB Members

Dr. John Gordon, CPSC (absent)	Dr. Richard Pazdur, FDA (absent)
Dr. Michelle L. Heacock, NIEHS (absent)	Dr. Craig D. Shriver, DoD (absent)
Dr. Michael Kelley, VA (absent)	Dr. Kerry Souza, NIOSH (absent)
Dr. Matthew J. Memoli, NIH (absent)	

Members, Scientific Program Leaders, National Cancer Institute, NIH

Dr. Oliver Bogler, Director, Center for Cancer Training
Dr. Philip E. Castle, Director, Division of Cancer Prevention
Dr. James H. Doroshow, Director, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis
Dr. Satish Gopal, Director, Center for Global Health
Dr. Paulette S. Gray, Director, Division of Extramural Activities
Dr. Warren A. Kibbe, Deputy Director for Data Science and Strategy
Ms. Amber Lowery, Deputy Director for Management and Executive Officer
Dr. Douglas R. Lowy, Principal Deputy Director
Ms. Anne Lubenow, Chief of Staff
Dr. Krzysztof Ptak, Director, Office of Cancer Centers
Dr. Dinah S. Singer, Deputy Director, Scientific Strategy and Development
Dr. Sanya A. Springfield, Director, Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities and Acting Deputy
Director for Strategic Engagement Director, Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities
Dr. Shamala K. Srinivas, Associate Director, Office of Referral, Review, and Program Coordination,
Division of Extramural Activities
Ms. Crystal Wolfrey, Director, Chief Grants Management Officer, Office of Grants Administration
Dr. Peter Wirth, Special Assistant to the Director, Division of Extramural Activities

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TUESDAY, 10 JUNE 2025**I. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS—DR. JOHN D. CARPTEN**

Dr. John D. Carpten called to order the 22nd virtual meeting of the National Cancer Advisory Board (NCAB). He welcomed members of the Board, *ex officio* members, President's Cancer Panel members, liaison representatives, staff, and guests. Members of the public were welcomed and invited to submit to Dr. Paulette S. Gray, Director, Division of Extramural Activities (DEA), National Cancer Institute (NCI), in writing and within 10 days, any comments regarding items discussed during the meeting. Dr. Carpten reviewed the confidentiality and conflict-of-interest practices required of Board members in their deliberations.

II. FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES—DR. JOHN D. CARPTEN

Dr. Carpten called Board members' attention to the future meeting dates listed on the agenda.

III. NCI PRINCIPAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REMARKS—DR. DOUGLAS R. LOWY

Dr. Douglas R. Lowy, Principal Deputy Director, NCI, welcomed NCAB members and attendees to the 22nd virtual meeting. He underscored the importance of the Board's role in performing secondary review of applications to ensure that the most meritorious applications are funded. He also emphasized that NCI has made consistent progress in cancer research but that more work in this space is needed. By funding as many meritorious applications as possible, NCI will continue to further progress in cancer research.

Questions and Answers

In response to an inquiry from NCAB Chair Dr. Carpten, Dr. Lowy noted that he has met with Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, NIH Director, on two occasions. During the first meeting, Dr. Lowy and his NCI colleagues reported on the successful outcome of a large human papillomavirus vaccine trial. The results from this trial, which were presented at a recent American Association for Cancer Research meeting, indicated that one dose was at least 97 percent protective, and, statistically, no difference was observed between one dose and two doses. Dr. Lowy noted that Dr. Bhattacharya was supportive of this presentation.

During the second meeting, Dr. Lowy met with Dr. Bhattacharya in his role as the Acting NCI Director. Dr. Lowy commented that Dr. Bhattacharya spoke positively about NCI's role in enabling progress in cancer prevention, screening, and survival over the past several decades. Dr. Lowy also remarked that the incidence of cancer has been relatively steady. For men, the incidence has decreased, largely due to increased efforts focused on smoking cessation. For women, cancer incidence has increased slightly, about 0.3 percent per year. This rise reflects increased breast cancer screening in recent years.

NCAB Chair Dr. Carpten inquired about the centralization of reviews through the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). Dr. Lowy explained that all reviews will eventually be conducted through CSR; currently, about 80 percent of reviews are being conducted through CSR. He noted that NCI is reviewing certain applications that require specialized review. NCI has conveyed the importance of these types of reviews for certain cases (e.g., NCI-Designated Cancer Centers) to CSR leadership.

Dr. Edjah K. Nduom, Daniel Louis Barro Endowed Chair, Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Emory University School of Medicine, Brain Tumor Disease Leader, Winship Cancer Institute, asked about ways that the Board can continue to support NCI. He noted that NCAB's charter states that the role of the Board is to advise both the NCI Director and the Secretary of the

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on how they approach cancer. Dr. Lowy emphasized that the NCAB plays a critical role in ensuring that NCI supports the largest possible amount of meritorious research.

Dr. Nduom also inquired about the status of the appointment of a new permanent NCI Director. Dr. Lowy stated that he is happy to serve as Acting Director as needed. He noted that he has served as Acting Director for 4 of the past 10 years and that three NCI Directors have been appointed during this period.

Dr. Karen M. Emmons, Professor, Department of Social and Behavioral Science, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, underscored the importance of highlighting the role of tobacco control in reducing cancer mortality, particularly when much of the federal infrastructure on tobacco control is being eliminated. She asked how NCI will address tobacco control in this context. Dr. Lowy emphasized that historically, tobacco cessation has been the single largest contributor to reductions in lung cancer incidence, as well as overall cancer mortality rates. NCI is proud of its role in these efforts, and future activities will be dependent on NCI's available resources. He also emphasized that these benefits have been observed across all segments of the population.

Ms. Ysabel Duron, Founder and Executive Director, The Latino Cancer Institute, remarked that community-based organizations and patient advocates are uncertain of their future roles in these activities, particularly regarding collaborations with minority racial and ethnic populations and with minority researchers. She expressed concern that these collaborations will suffer, leading to exacerbated health disparities. Dr. Lowy stated that NCI is obligated to comply with the administration requirements and thus will be employing different approaches than in the past.

Dr. Fred K. Tabung, Associate Professor, Division of Medical Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, James College of Medicine, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, asked whether the new NCI Chief Science Advisor, Dr. George Sigounas, will interact with the new NCAB *ad hoc* Working Group on Extramural Research Concepts and Programs. He also wondered how Dr. Sigounas will coordinate with the NCI Director. Dr. Lowy explained that Dr. Sigounas has a considerable background in health research and health care. Dr. Lowy noted that at this time, it is unknown how such a collaboration might function, as Dr. Sigounas only recently began serving as NCI Chief Science Advisor.

Dr. Tabung asked about NCI's future status as an independent NIH institute, in light of recent restructuring plans. Dr. Lowy responded that to the best of his knowledge, there are no plans to fold NCI in with other institutes or centers.

IV. ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION—DR. JOHN D. CARPTEN

Dr. Carpten adjourned the open session. Only Board members and designated NCI staff remained for the closed session.

V. CLOSED SESSION—DR. JOHN D. CARPTEN

"This portion of the meeting was closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in Sections 552b(c)(4), 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S. code, and 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. appendix 2)."

There was a review of grants and a discussion of personnel and proprietary issues. Members absented themselves from the meeting during discussions for which there was potential conflict of interest, real or apparent.

The Board was informed that a comprehensive listing of all grant applications to be included in the **en bloc** vote was in the Special Actions package. Those grant applications, as well as those announced during the closed session, could be considered for funding by the institute.

The NCAB **en bloc** motion to concur with IRG recommendations was unanimously approved. During the closed session, a total of 2,977 NCI applications were reviewed requesting direct cost support of \$1,287,153,077.

VI. ADJOURNMENT—DR. JOHN D. CARPTEN

Dr. Carpten thanked all the Board members, as well as the visitors and observers, for attending. There being no further business, the 22nd virtual meeting of the NCAB was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 10 June 2025.

Date

Christopher R. Friese, Ph.D., RN, Acting Chair, NCAB

Date

Shamala Srinivas, Ph.D., Executive Secretary