

NCI Director's Report

Anthony Letai, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, National Cancer Institute

National Cancer Advisory Board Meeting

Today's Talk

1. *Leadership Updates*
2. *Budget and Funding*
3. *NCI Updates*

Thank You



John Carpten, PhD
City of Hope



Nilofer Azad, MD
Johns Hopkins University



Christopher Friese, PhD, RN
University of Michigan



Amy Heimberger, MD, PhD
Northwestern University



Ashani Weeraratna, PhD
Johns Hopkins University



Karen Winkfield, MD, PhD
Vanderbilt University

NCI Leadership Update



Senthil K. Muthuswamy, PhD
Director, NCI Center for Cancer Research

NCI Annual Plan & Professional Judgment Budget

- Read the new plan for FY 2028, released today: **plan.cancer.gov**
- Defines funding needed to pursue promising research
- Highlighted scientific opportunities:
 - Functional precision medicine
 - Cell-based immunotherapies
 - Pediatric cancer data
 - Tumor atlases



Leading Progress Against Cancer NCI Fiscal Year 2028 Professional Judgment Budget

AT A GLANCE

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Virtually every major cancer breakthrough since the signing of the National Cancer Act of 1971 has its origins at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Through public support and steady funding increases from Congress, NCI continues to lead the world in advancing cancer prevention, detection, and treatment through rigorous, gold-standard science and innovation.

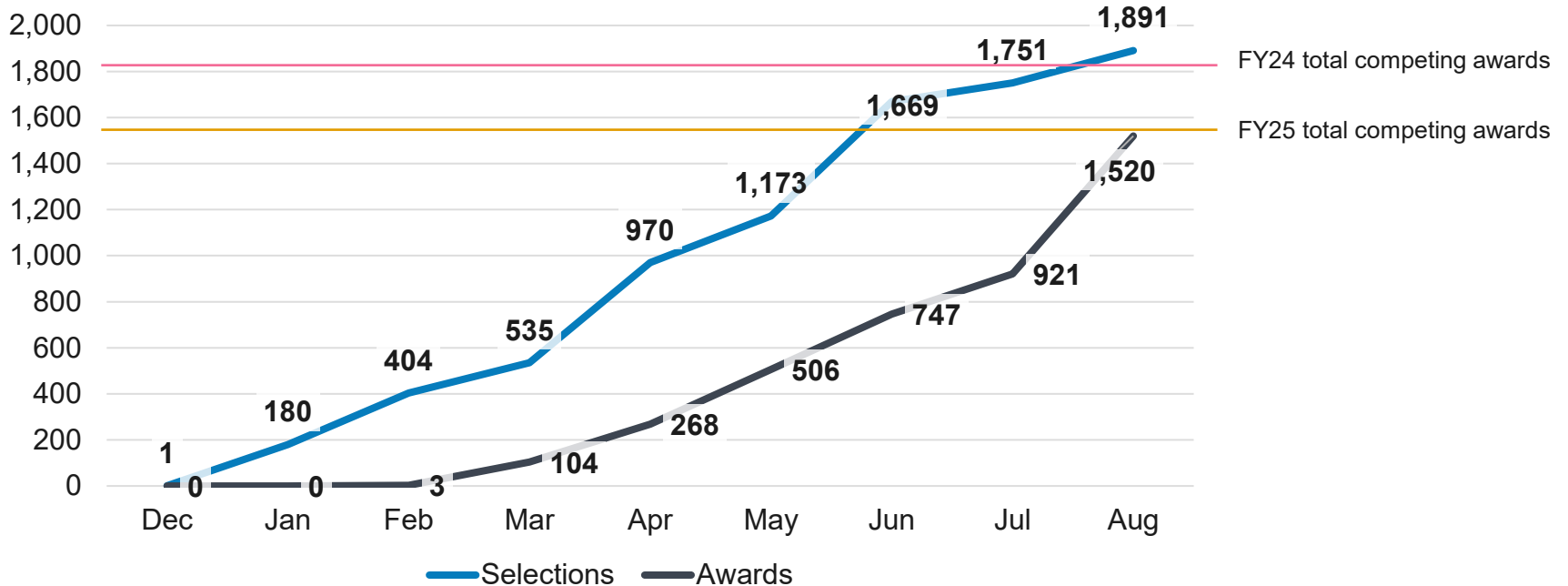
Remarkable milestones achieved this year alone demonstrate what is possible through sustained

recurrence, particularly in cancers where relapse is common. These advances show that the immune system can be harnessed to improve outcomes for many cancer types that are responsible for the greatest loss of life.

NCI-funded research is also transforming cancer prevention. Recent advances include at-home cervical cancer screening tests and evidence that a single dose of the HPV vaccine is as effective as two doses in preventing HPV infection, reducing barriers to preventing several common virus-related cancers.

Where Are We Now?

FY26 Cumulative Selections & Awards



Cancer Research Training

- NCI remains committed to funding cancer research training, education, and career development
- NIH is consolidating and simplifying notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) for cancer training to reduce administrative complexity
- Streamlined funding announcements will not reduce NCI's overall investment in young investigators

Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

- **NIH Bio Genesis Mission** – NCI contributing pediatric data to help unlock cures for childhood cancer through AI
- **Sept. 17th** – 17th Annual Childhood Cancer Summit
- **Sept. 18th** – Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI) Symposium



In person at Shady Grove
and virtual
[events.cancer.gov/nci/ccdi
symposium](https://events.cancer.gov/nci/ccdi-symposium)

NCI Strategic Plan

- NCI-wide planning activity for the past year
- Presents a bold vision for how NCI can continue to lead the National Cancer Program
- Focused on four strategic goals:

Advance foundational cancer research

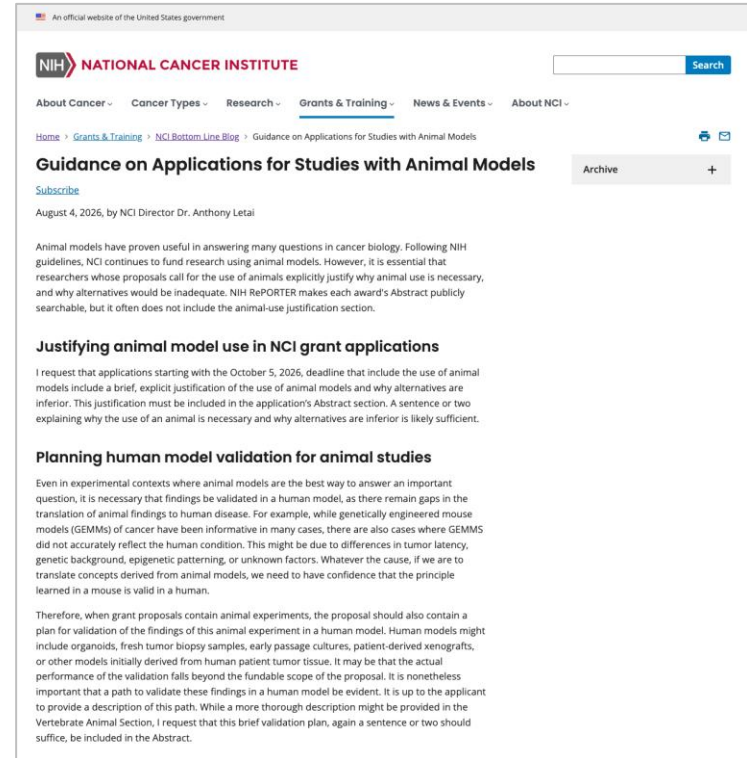
Achieve measurable improvements in cancer outcomes

Speed discovery-to-translation continuum

Modernize and sustain the national cancer research ecosystem

Bottom Line Blog Post: Guidance for Animal Models

- Published in early August
- Communicates guidance for studies using animal models:
 - Include brief justification & describe the path to human translation
 - Makes the review process more transparent, efficient, and predictable



Functional Precision Medicine

- Matching the right drug to the right patient
- Precision in Practice Workshop – more than 1,000 attendees
- White paper on key themes and next steps coming soon



Human Cancer Models Initiative Milestone

- NCI-led Human Cancer Models Initiative [published new data resource](#)
- 665 next-gen models from 2,780 donors in 25 cancer types
- Models retain molecular features, link to clinical info

Article

A compendium of next-generation patient-derived models for diverse cancers

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-026-10806-y>

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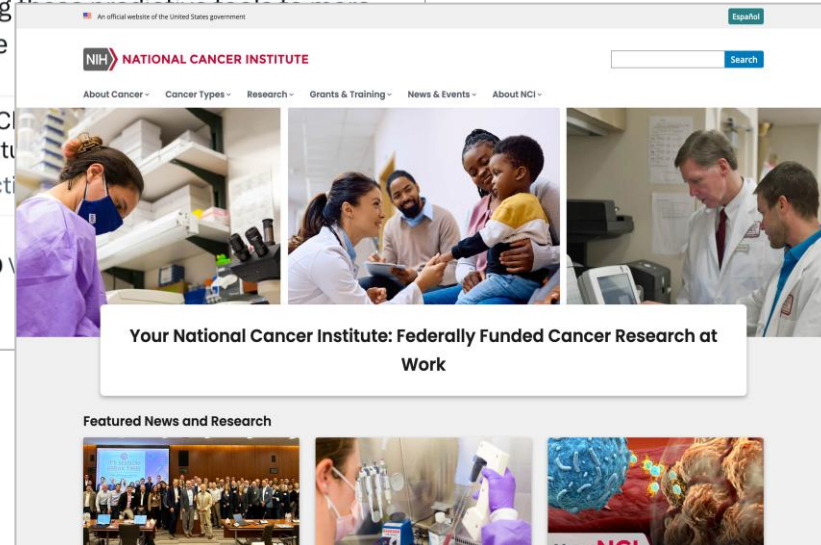
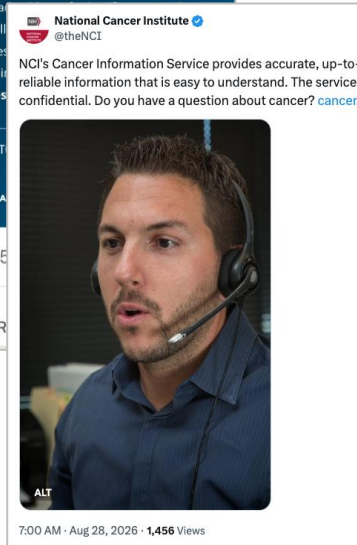
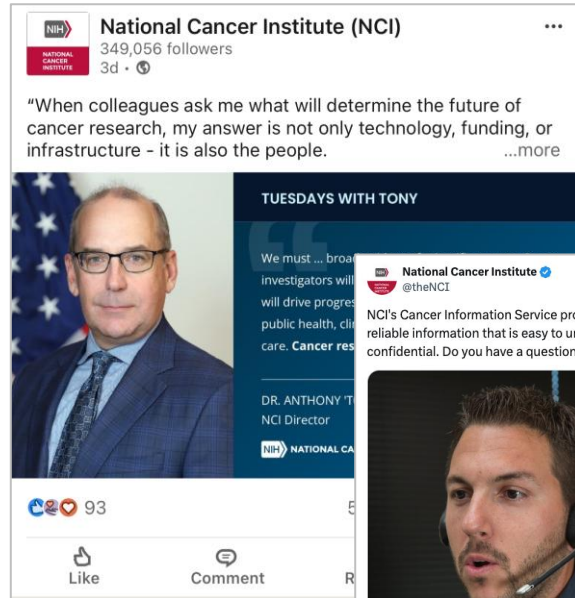
Open access

 Check for updates

Dina ElHarouni^{1,2,73}, Mushriq Al-Jazrawi^{1,2,73}, Seongmin Choi^{4,5,73}, Merve Dede^{6,73}, Toshinori Hinoue^{7,73}, Sean A. Misek^{1,2,73}, Heeju Noh^{8,10,73}, Luca Zanella^{9,73}, Yuen-Yi Tseng¹, Hayley E. Francies¹, Dennis Plenker¹², Cindy W. Kyli¹³, Jullyann Perez-Mayoral¹³, Megan J. Stine¹⁴, Eva Tonsing-Carter¹³, Rachana Agarwal¹⁵, Jean Claude Zenklusen¹³, James M. Clinton¹⁶, Jennifer M. Shelton¹⁷, Timothy R. Chu¹⁸, William F. Hooper¹⁷, Xavi Loinaz^{1,18}, Paula Keskula¹, Jordan Tagle¹⁹, Peyton C. Kuhlers²⁰, Bahar Tercan¹⁹, Sylvia F. Boj²¹, Alessandro Vasciaveo²², Lorenzo Tomassoni^{15,23}, James M. Crawford²⁴, Shawna Walsh², Claire Sinisi², Sonam Bhatia^{2,12}, Priya Sridevi¹², Hardik Patel¹², Maria Antonietta Cerone²⁵, The HCMI Network*, Kyle Ellrott¹⁹, Calvin J. Kuo²⁶, Olivier Elemento²⁷, Semir Beyaz¹², Vincenzo Corbo²⁸, David L. Spector¹², Rameen Beroukhi¹⁹, Martin L. Ferguson¹³, Andrew D. Cherniack^{1,8}, Peter W. Laird⁷, Nicolas Robine¹⁷, Andrew McPherson^{1,5}, Katherine A. Hoadley²⁰, Mathew J. Garnett^{1,17,24}, David A. Tuveson^{1,26}, Andrea Califano^{1,9,10,13,21,22,23,18}, Paul T. Spellman^{14,24}, Keith L. Ligon^{1,2,23,36,74,12}, Daniela S. Gerhard^{12,73}, Louis M. Staudt^{27,24,12} & Jesse S. Boehm^{1,2,74,12}

The development of new therapeutics and the validation of pathogenetic cancer mechanisms require representative laboratory models^{1,2}. However, existing collections represent only a fraction of the diversity observed in human cancer^{2–4}. Recent technologies have enabled efficient in vitro model derivation (for example, tumour organoids)⁵. However, whether these maintain essential properties of patient tumours during long-term expansion has not been systematically investigated. Here we present results of a large-scale international programme—the Human Cancer Models Initiative—which involved the generation of a resource of 665 next-generation

NCI Communications Are Active



Thank You!



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