

# Managing the Now, Focused on the Future

Ned Sharpless, M.D., Director National Cancer Institute Bethesda, Maryland



# Congratulations!



### Douglas R. Lowy, M.D., FAACR

AACR Distinguished Award for Public Service

### Steven R. Rosenberg, M.D., Ph.D., FAACR

AACR-Cancer Research Institute Lloyd J. Old Award in Cancer Immunology

### Patricia S. Steeg, Ph.D.

2020 AACR-Women in Cancer Research Charlotte Friend Lectureship



# Addressing racial inequality in cancer research

**NCI** response to COVID-19

Sustaining and accelerating progress in cancer research

Live questions and answers

## Diversity in the Cancer Research Workforce



SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

09 OCT 2019

SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

# Topic choice contributes to the lower rate of NIH awards to African-American/black scientists

Travis A. Hoppe<sup>1,2</sup>, Aviva Litovit<sup>-1,2</sup> Matthew J. Perkins<sup>1,2</sup>, B. Ian Hut Hannah A. Valantine<sup>4</sup>, James M.

SCIENCE ADVANCES | RESEARCH ARTICLE

03 JUNE 2020

#### SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

NIH peer review: Criterion scores completely account for racial disparities in overall impact scores

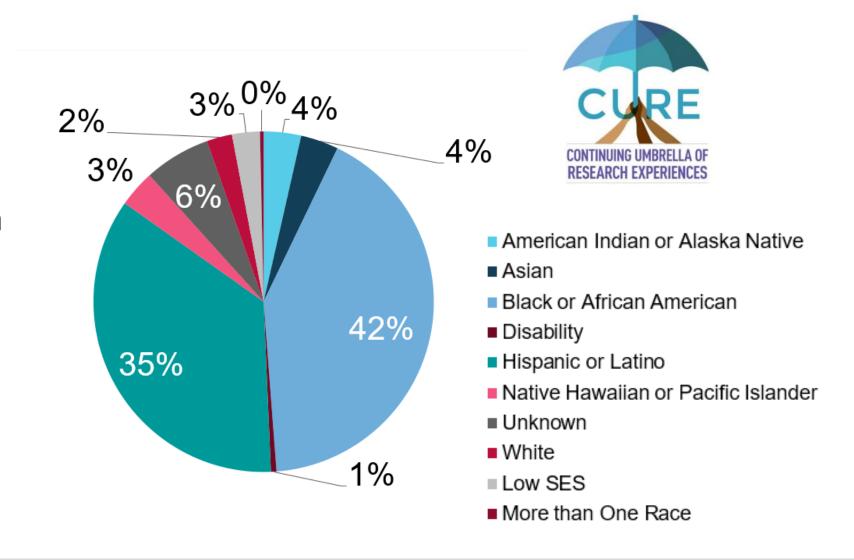
Elena A. Erosheva<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>\*, Sheridan Grant<sup>1</sup>, Mei-Ching Chen<sup>5</sup>, Mark D. Lindner<sup>5</sup>, Richard K. Nakamura<sup>5,6</sup>, Carole J. Lee<sup>7</sup>\*

# Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE)



2001 - 2018: **4,753 Trainees** 

- Offers mechanisms from middle school to first academic appointment
- Supports career development awards (K01, K08, and K22)



# Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE)



NCI Funding for Research and Training Wednesday, June 24 - 1:45 pm

Opportunities to Support a Diverse Workforce and Advance Cancer Disparities Research

**Tiffany Wallace, Ph.D.** 

Program Director
NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities

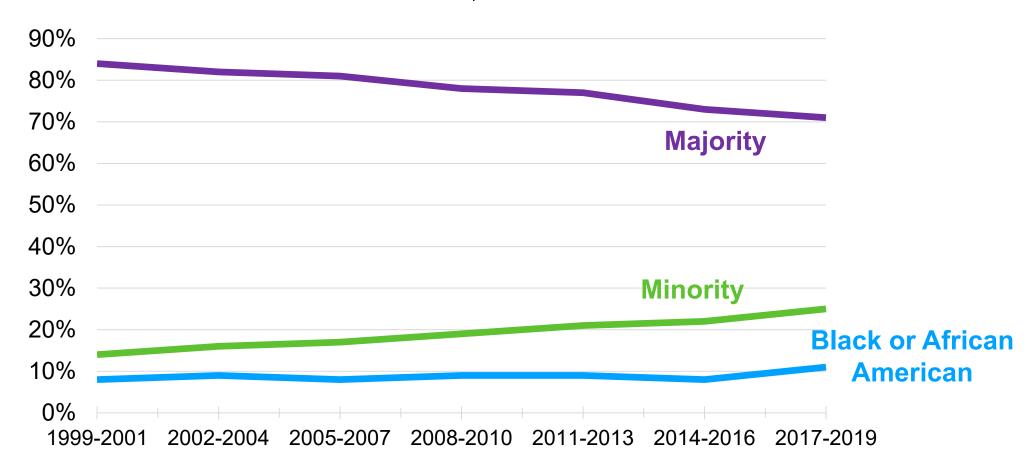


## Minority accrual to clinical trials



Accrual to NCTN and NCORP trials (and predecessor programs)

Phases I – III, 1999-2019



### **AACR Minorities in Cancer Research**



- Physicians and researchers from backgrounds that are underrepresented in the biomedical sciences
- Currently includes more than 4,000 members
- Additional support (since 1999):

AACR Minority Scholar in Cancer Research Awards (via NCI R13 Grants)

- 319 Faculty
- 357 Postdoctoral Fellows
- 564 Students

on
The Science of Cancer
Health Disparities in
Racial/Ethnic Minorities
and the Medically
Underserved

October 2-5, 2020 Miami, FL

## **NCI** Response to COVID-19



- SARS-CoV-2 Serology Research
- NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study (NCCAPS)
- Guidance for cancer clinical trials
- Flexibilities and opportunities for grantees
- Genomic studies of COVID-19 outcomes
- Compassionate use trial of tocilizumab for severe COVID-19 pneumonia

https://www.cancer.gov/coronavirus-researchers

## **COVID-19 Serology Research**



**Serological Sciences Network** for COVID-19 (SeroNet)

### RFA-CA-20-038

SARS-CoV-2 Serological Sciences Centers of Excellence (U54 Clinical Trial Optional)

### RFA-CA-20-039

Research Projects in SARS-CoV-2 Serological Sciences (U01 Clinical Trial Optional)



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: Serological **Test Validation and Education Efforts** 

Insight into FDA's Revised Policy on Antibody Tests: Prioritizing Access and Accuracy

PUBLIC LAW 116-139-APR. 24, 2020

Public Law 116-139

116th Congress

An Act

Apr. 24, 2020 [H.R. 266]

134 STAT. 620

Program and Health Care

15 USC 9001

Paycheck Protection Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act".

#### SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

Sec. 3. References.

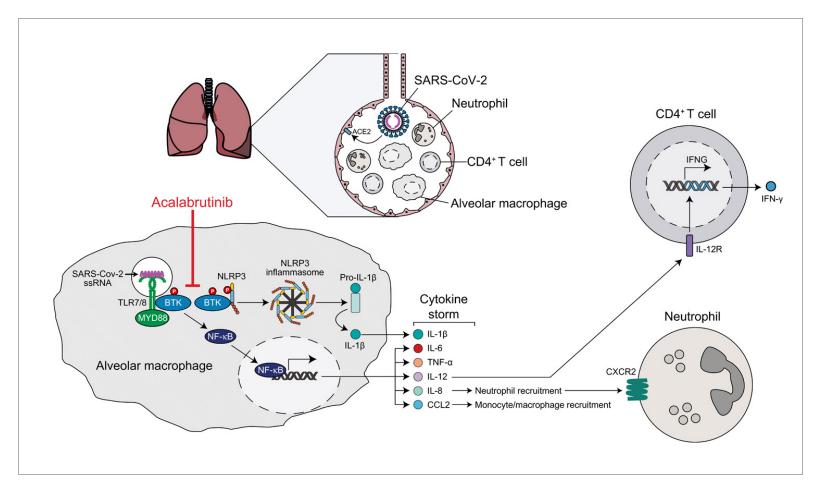
### **Acalabrutinib**



# Science Immunology

**JUNE 5, 2020** 

This prospective study of patients with severe COVID-19 highlights the potential benefit of BTK inhibition and has led to a confirmatory international prospective randomized controlled clinical trial.



Rochewski, et al. DOI: 10.1126/sciimmunol.abd0110

# **Cancer & COVID-19 Natural History**





Home > News & Events > Cancer Currents Blog

#### How Does COVID-19 Affect People with Cancer? NCCAPS Will Help Find Out

#### Subscribe

May 21, 2020, by James H. Doroshow, M.D.

With the sudden explosion of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all living with a great deal of fear, uncertainty, and anxiety. As an oncologist and cancer researcher, I know that those feelings are heightened for many people with cancer.

People with cancer are already facing the shock of a cancer diagnosis, the tribulations that accompany treatment, or the stress of <a href="mailto:survivorship">survivorship</a>. On top of that, we're learning that people with cancer may be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 because their cancer, or its treatment, has left them more vulnerable to complications.



NCI has launched a study called NCCAPS that will help scientists answer questions about COVID-19's impact on cancer patients and cancer's impact on the course of COVID-19.

Credit: iStock

# NCI COVID-19 in Cancer Patients Study (NCCAPS)

- 448 trial sites activated as of June 12
- Aim to enroll 2,000 patients
- NCT04387656

# Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on long-term trends in cancer statistics



Delayed Diagnosis	<ul> <li>Reduced screening</li> <li>Reduced follow-up on suspicious findings from screening</li> <li>Reduced visits to address symptoms</li> </ul>	Treatment Delay Increased Mortality
Deferred Care	<ul><li>Postponed surgery</li><li>Postponed radiation</li><li>Postponed chemotherapy</li></ul>	Treatment Delay Increased Mortality
Reduced / Non- Standard care	<ul> <li>Less intense chemotherapy</li> <li>Neo-adjuvant chemotherapy instead of immediate surgery</li> </ul>	Reduced Response Increased Mortality

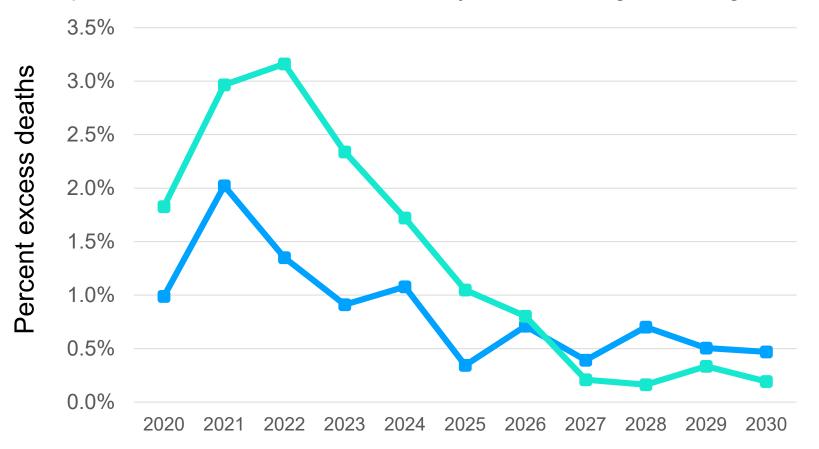
# Reduced access to care

- Uninsured
- Under-insured
- Underserved populations

# Modeling potential effects of the pandemic on cancer mortality



Percent Excess Breast and Colorectal Cancer Deaths per Year Compared to a Scenario without Delayed Screening and Diagnosis



- Breast Cancer
- Colorectal Cancer

Courtesy of Dr. Eric Feuer, NCI & CISNET.

### Selumetinib & NF1





Brigitte Widemann, M.D.

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Selumetinib in Children with Inoperable Plexiform Neurofibromas

A.M. Gross, P.L. Wolters, E. Do B. Weiss, A.R. Kim, M. Bornho D.C. Pichard, A. Carbonell, S.M D.W. Clapp, C. Zhang, C.J. Peer, S.M. Steinberg, D.J. Venz

FDA approves selumetinib for neurofibromatosis type 1 with symptomatic, inoperable plexiform neurofibromas

April 10, 2020

## Important advance for Kaposi Sarcoma

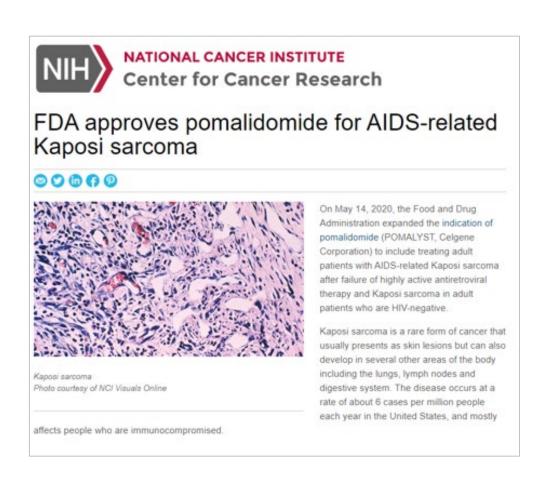


# FDA grants accelerated approval to pomalidomide for Kaposi sarcoma



On May 14, 2020, the Food and Drug Administration expanded the indication of pomalidomide (POMALYST, Celgene Corporation) to include treating adult patients with AIDS-related Kaposi sarcoma after failure of highly active antiretroviral therapy and Kaposi sarcoma in adult patients who are HIV-negative.

"Pomalyst has shown positive results in Kaposi sarcoma patients, regardless of their HIV status," said Dr. Yarchoan. "Also, it provides a therapy that is taken orally and works by a different mechanism of action than the cytotoxic chemotherapy drugs generally used to treat Kaposi sarcoma."



### **CD33 CAR T Trial**

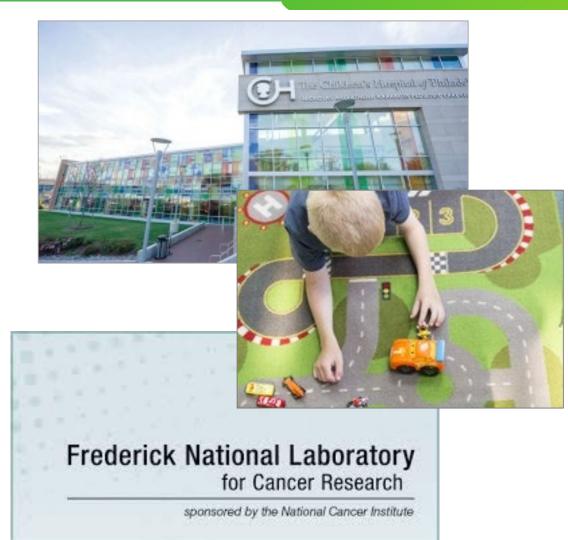


Study of Anti-CD33 Chimeric Antigen Receptor-Expressing T Cells (CD33CART) in Children and Young Adults With Relapsed/Refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03971799

### Principal Investigators:

- Nirali Shah, MD, MHSc, NCI
- Richard Aplenc, MD, PhD, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia





# Thank you!