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. Hoppe¹,², Aviva Litovitz¹,², Matthew J. Perkins¹,², B. Ian Hong¹, Hannah A. Valentine³, James M. Robison³, Michael D. Shively⁴

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**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. Erosheva¹,²,³,⁴*, Sheridan Grant¹, Mei-Ching Chen⁵, Mark D. Lindner⁵, Richard K. Nakamura⁵,⁶, Carole J. Lee⁷*
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

![Graph showing the percentage of minority accrual to clinical trials from 1999-2019. The graph compares majority, minority, and Black or African American accrual across different phases. The majority shows a steady decrease, while the minority and Black or African American groups show an increase over time.](https://example.com/clinical_trials_accrual.png)
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

13th AACR Conference 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)
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

**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

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

- 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

Courtesy of Dr. Eric Feuer, NCI & CISNET.
Selumetinib in Children with Inoperable Plexiform Neurofibromas


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

April 10, 2020
“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!