



Strategies for Maximizing the Nation's Investment in Cancer

MEETING DATES

September 10, 2007
October 22, 2007
December 3, 2007
January 28, 2008

BACKGROUND

- For the first time ever, declines in cancer mortality rates of 1 percent demonstrate that progress is being made (Edwards, BK. et al. *J Natl Cancer Inst.* 2005; 97(19):1407-27).
- A recent article published in the *Journal of Political Economy* suggests that "a 1 percent reduction in cancer mortality would be worth \$500 billion" in the future (Murphy, KM & Topel, R. *Journal of Political Economy.* 2006; 114(5):871-904).
- Enormous amounts of money have been spent during the past 30 years on cancer research; however, these achievements pale in comparison to successes in controlling other diseases, such as cardiovascular or infectious diseases (Varmus, H. *Science.* 2006;312 (5777):1162-1165).
- Until recently, the NIH budget had been increasing over time; however, the distribution of funds to NCI is not sufficient when inflation is factored into the equation. Adequate funding is required throughout all facets of the National Cancer Program (NCP) to finance new research, new investigators, and translation of findings to the field (<http://www.aaas.org/spp/rd/nih07p.htm>. Accessed 9 May 2007).

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS

Advocates	Government Representatives
Economists	Scientific/Cancer-Related Organization Representatives
Business Leaders/Venture Capitalists	Health Care Experts
Cancer Center Directors	Scientists

QUESTIONS FOR EXPLORATION

Primary Questions

- What changes to the current system would make the largest impact on cancer morbidity and mortality? How can these changes be achieved? Who must be involved in making these changes and how can they be appropriately engaged?

Additional Questions

- How can business models be applied to the cancer research enterprise as a means of optimizing the funding process? What is the optimal way to fund research? What specific steps must be taken to change the funding structure and process?
- Why are cancer appropriations not a higher priority? What should be done to raise the priority of appropriations for cancer research (and cancer care)?
- What would the optimal balance of resources be throughout the cancer research portfolio at NCI (e.g. basic, translational, clinical, and health services)?
- How do we sustain the momentum of cancer care and research under the current fiscal circumstances?
- What is the role of NCI in the prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship of cancer? What is the role of other key constituencies (other governmental agencies, advocates, etc.)? How can these various stakeholders collaborate to achieve the most effective results?

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Meetings of the Panel are open to the public; no registration is required.