

## **Donations to the National Cancer Institute: Questions and Answers**

### **Key Points**

- Donations can be made to the National Cancer Institute (NCI) by check or money order and sent to the Director of the Institute (see Question 2).
- Donations can be made in memory or in honor of a person (see Question 3).
- Donations to the NCI are used for special projects in support of cancer research (see Question 5).

### **1. Can donations be made to the National Cancer Institute?**

The National Cancer Institute (NCI), a component of the National Institutes of Health, is a Federal Government research agency funded by congressional appropriations. Although the NCI does not solicit funds or participate in fund-raising activities, the Institute has been authorized by the U.S. Congress to accept donations and bequests to support its mission.

A number of private cancer organizations operate locally and nationally in the United States, and many of them have similar names. Some of these groups may suggest NCI or the NCI's Cancer Information Service as a source of information on cancer. However, none of these organizations are affiliated with the NCI.

### **2. How are donations made?**

All donations are handled through the NCI Gift Fund. Donation checks or money orders are made payable to the "National Cancer Institute" and sent to:



The Director  
The National Cancer Institute  
Building 31, Room 11A-16  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

A donation letter should be sent along with the check or money order indicating that the donation is to be used for research at the NCI. The NCI will send an acknowledgement letter of the gift if the name and address of the donor is provided. Dollar amounts are not included in the letter of acknowledgement. The donation letter should include the following information:

Name (contact person)  
Company Name (if applicable)  
Street Address  
City, State, and ZIP Code  
Telephone Number (optional)

**3. Can donations be made in memory or in honor of a person?**

Yes. Donations can be made in memory or in honor of a person. The donation letter should include the name of the person who is being remembered or honored, plus the name(s) and address(es) of the individual(s) (honoree, spouse, or family member) to be notified of the donation. Dollar amounts are not included in the letter of acknowledgement.

**4. Can donations be made for a specific type of research?**

All donations are used for cancer research projects as determined by the NCI Director. However, a donation can be designated for a certain type of cancer research. This request should be made in the donation letter.

**5. How are donations used?**

Donations are deposited in NCI's Gift Fund and used for special projects in support of cancer research. Projects supported through the Gift Fund vary from year to year depending on the needs of the Institute. Projects that have been supported through the Gift Fund include special fellowships to train young scientists in cancer research, equipment for clinical laboratories, workshops and conferences on subjects of special importance to cancer research, and the printing of pamphlets about cancer for the general public. Donations are also used for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center's "Patient Emergency Fund," which is used to assist patients in financial need (donations can also be made directly to the NIH Clinical Center for this purpose).

**6. Can donations be deducted on income tax?**

Yes. Donations to the Institute are deductible for income, gift, and estate tax purposes under the Internal Revenue Code.

**7. Is more information available about donations to the NCI?**

Information on how to donate and the donation process is available on the NCI's Office of Budget and Finance Web site at <http://obf.cancer.gov/contribute/giftfund.htm> on the Internet. The NCI Office of Budget and Finance may also be contacted by telephone at 301-496-5803, by e-mail at [perezv@mail.nih.gov](mailto:perezv@mail.nih.gov), or at the following address:

Office of Budget and Finance  
The National Cancer Institute  
Building 31, Room 11A-16  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

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**Related NCI materials and Web pages:**

- National Cancer Institute Fact Sheet 1.1, *Cancer Research Funding*  
<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/NCI/research-funding>
- National Cancer Institute Fact Sheet 1.23, *The U.S. National Cancer Institute*  
<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/NCI/NCI>
- National Cancer Institute Fact Sheet 2.8, *Cancer Fund-Raising Organizations*  
<http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Information/organizations>
- National Organizations That Offer Services to People With Cancer and Their Families Web page  
<https://cissecure.nci.nih.gov/factsheet/FactsheetSearch.aspx?FSType=8.1>
- The NCI Office of Budget and Finance Home Page <http://obf.cancer.gov/>

**For more help, contact:**

**NCI's Cancer Information Service**

Telephone (toll-free): 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237)

TTY (toll-free): 1-800-332-8615

*LiveHelp*<sup>®</sup> online chat: <https://cissecure.nci.nih.gov/livehelp/welcome.asp>

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