



FACT SHEET

NCI Addresses the Global Challenge of Cancer

Each year, over 11 million people are diagnosed with cancer and more than 6 million die worldwide – more deaths than AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined. The National Cancer Institute (NCI), established under the National Cancer Institute Act of 1937, is the United States (U.S.) Federal Government's principal agency for cancer research and training. NCI's international efforts catalyze research and build capacity for research globally. The NCI funds foreign contracts and grants, develops partnerships with other nations and organizations, and provides training opportunities for American scientists abroad and foreign scientists in the U.S.

The National Cancer Act of 1971 specifically directs that NCI support collaborative international research and international training. The **NCI Office of International Affairs (OIA)** is the focal point for execution of many, though not all, of the Institute's international outreach and health diplomacy programs.

Highlights of International Efforts

Partnerships – Many of NCI's international efforts are highly collaborative, leveraging resources and creating synergy across regions. Through international partnerships such as the Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC), the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR), the American Russian Cancer Alliance, the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Cancer Research Program (USJCCRP), and the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium, the global capacity for cancer-related resources continues to expand. These joint ventures facilitate research development, training activities, and workshops.

Research – A global approach to research allows explorations of interactions between genes and specific environmental exposures found in foreign settings. NCI aids the work of scientists in cancer centers, universities, hospitals, research foundations, and businesses throughout the U.S. and abroad, as well as within its intramural program. The NCI remains committed to supporting and expanding international research efforts because research anywhere has the potential to benefit people everywhere.

Training – Building human capacity for cancer research is an essential component of NCI's international efforts. In 2007, nearly 1,000 researchers from 81 countries conducted research at NCI laboratories. NCI also offers tailored training activities, such as the **NCI Summer Curriculum in Cancer Prevention**, which includes scientists and health professionals from around the world.

Workshops – OIA fosters joint research between scientists by co-sponsoring international workshops. OIA workshops unite small groups of U.S. and foreign scientists, enabling them to exchange and disseminate information or explore or clarify a defined subject, question, or area of knowledge. Examples include the USJCCRP Workshops, All-Ireland NCI Cancer Conferences, and MECC Workshops on Palliative Care and Nursing.

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