



**Association of
American Cancer Institutes**

3708 Fifth Avenue
Medical Arts Building, 503
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

412•647•6111

mail@aaci-cancer.org
www.aaci-cancer.org

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April 27, 2017

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Case Comprehensive Cancer Center

Case Western Reserve University

Seidman Cancer Center at

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Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Cole and Ranking Members Lowey and DeLauro:

The Association of American Cancer Institutes (AACI) represents 97 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated and academic-based cancer research programs in North America that excel in cancer research, clinical care and education. AACI institutions house more than 20,000 scientific, clinical and public health investigators who work collaboratively to translate research findings into new approaches to prevent and treat cancer. AACI institutions are beacons of discovery, largely funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and NCI, agencies which rely on stable, predictable federal funding in order to invest in groundbreaking cancer research.

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AACI centers are grateful for the bipartisan support Congress has shown for biomedical research in general and cancer research in particular. Last year, the Senate

Appropriations Committee approved a funding level for the NIH in Fiscal Year 2017 at \$34.1 billion. AACI appreciated this recommendation and asks that Congress ensures that level is reached for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017 and that Congress rejects any cut to the NIH and NCI. Any reduction to the NIH and NCI threatens to diminish academic cancer centers' ability to develop and discover breakthrough therapies and treatments for patients, and potentially sideline promising research projects that are still under review for funding.

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Federal investment in cancer research is necessary to ensure that the momentum in scientific discovery achieved over the past few years will continue to yield important advances in patient care. As of January 2016, there are 15.5 million cancer survivors in the United States - over four times the number of survivors in 1975. However, an estimated 1.69 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in 2017. Increased federal funding is urgently needed in order for cancer centers to continue to make life-saving discoveries which are ultimately improving patient outcomes.

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Ensuring stable, predictable funds are provided to the NIH in Fiscal Year 2017 and beyond, will allow academic cancer centers to continue to improve cancer treatment outcomes for all patients battling cancer.

Thank you for your commitment to the NIH and NCI.

Sincerely,

Edward Partridge, MD
Director
UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Alabama at Birmingham
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Director
UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute
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Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, CA

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UCSF Helen Diller Family Comprehensive
Cancer Center
San Francisco, CA

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Interim Director
UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center
Los Angeles, CA

Primo N. Lara, Jr., MD
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UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center
Sacramento, CA

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La Jolla, CA

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La Jolla, CA

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Orange, CA

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Aurora, CO

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Director
Yale Cancer Center
Yale School of Medicine
New Haven, CT

Louis M. Weiner, MD
Director
Georgetown Lombardi Comprehensive
Cancer Center
Washington, DC

Eduardo Sotomayor, MD
Director
GW Cancer Center
Washington, DC

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Director
Moffitt Cancer Center
Tampa, FL

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Director
Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Miami Health System
Miami, FL

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Atlanta, GA

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Augusta, GA

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Honolulu, HI

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Center of Northwestern University
Chicago, IL

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The University of Chicago Medicine
Comprehensive Cancer Center
Chicago, IL

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University of Illinois Cancer Center
Chicago, IL

Patrick J. Loehrer, Sr., MD
Director
Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon
Cancer Center
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George J. Weiner, MD
Director
Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA

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Director
The University of Kansas Cancer Center
Kansas City, KS

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LSU Cancer Center at New Orleans
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New Orleans, LA

Augusto Ochoa, MD
Director
LSU Cancer Center at New Orleans
Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center
New Orleans, LA

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President and CEO
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Bar Harbor, ME

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Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, MD

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Director
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Baltimore, MD

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Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
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Boston, MA

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Boston, MA

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Cancer Center
Ann Arbor, MI

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Detroit, MI

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St. Louis, MO

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Jackson, MS

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St. Louis, MO

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Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton
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Lebanon, NH

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New Brunswick, NJ

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Cancer Center
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President and CEO
Roswell Park Cancer Institute
Buffalo, NY

I. David Goldman, MD
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Bronx, NY

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State University of New York
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Columbia University Medical Center
New York, NY

Jeffrey Bogart, MD
Interim Director
Upstate Cancer Center
SUNY Upstate Medical University
Syracuse, NY

Boris C. Pasche, MD, PhD, FACP
Director
Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive
Cancer Center
Winston-Salem, NC

Michael B. Kastan, MD, PhD
Executive Director
Duke Cancer Institute
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, NC

Norman Sharpless, MD
Director
UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC

Stanton L. Gerson, MD
Director
Case Comprehensive Cancer Center
Case Western Reserve University
Seidman Cancer Center at University Hospitals
Cleveland Medical Center
Cleveland, OH

Michael A. Caligiuri, MD
Director and CEO
The Ohio State University Comprehensive
Cancer Center - James Cancer Hospital & Solove
Research Institute
Columbus, OH

Brian Bolwell, MD
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The Cleveland Clinic Foundation
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Oklahoma City, OK

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Portland, OR

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Philadelphia, PA

Edward Chu, MD
Interim Director
University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute
UPMC Cancer Center
Pittsburgh, PA

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Director
Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center
at Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia, PA

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The Wistar Institute
Philadelphia, PA

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Hershey, PA

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C. Kent Osborne, MD
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Baylor College of Medicine
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Interim Director
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Director
Medical College of Wisconsin Cancer Center
Milwaukee, WI

Richard M. Goldberg, MD, FACP, FASCO
Director
WVU Cancer Institute
Morgantown, WV