

Millions of Americans are alive today because of federally funded cancer research and prevention. **For over 20 years, OVAC has united the nation's cancer community to advocate for these vital programs.**

THIS YEAR, OVAC CELEBRATES 20 KEY FEDERALLY FUNDED CANCER ADVANCES THAT HAVE IMPROVED THE LIVES OF PATIENTS SINCE OUR FOUNDING

2000 National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded study links household radon to lung cancer. The study helps make radon inspections a routine part of home ownership.

2001 Targeted drug makes chronic myelogenous leukemia a manageable disease. Federally funded discoveries led to the development of the treatment, imatinib, for this formerly fatal cancer.

2002 NCI trial finds screening with flexible sigmoidoscopy reduces colorectal cancer deaths in people over 55. The findings offer certain older patients a less invasive screening alternative to colonoscopy.

2003 National Institutes of Health (NIH) scientists decode the human genome, paving the way for better identification of genetic defects that fuel cancer—and better ways to screen for and treat it.

2004 Chemotherapy after surgery dramatically improves survival for early-stage non-small cell lung cancer. The NCI-funded study changes the standard of care.

2005 NCI's 15-year Childhood Cancer Survivor study helps doctors understand and manage the long-term effects of cancer treatment for the millions of childhood cancer survivors alive today.

2006 First HPV vaccine introduced, based on technology developed by NCI. The vaccine, in combination with cervical screening, has the potential to prevent most cases of cervical cancer.

2007 Declines in breast cancer linked to lower use of hormone replacement therapy (HRT). The NCI-supported research leads to further reductions in use of HRT as a treatment for menopausal symptoms.

2008 Studies clarify role of HPV infection in head and neck cancers. The NIH-supported research further strengthens the case for routine HPV vaccination.

2009 Study validates chemotherapy for older women with breast cancer. The NCI-funded research resolves a long-standing debate over whether elderly patients can tolerate and benefit from the standard treatments for the disease.

2010 Annual CT scanning reduces lung cancer deaths among heavy smokers. The NCI trial marks the first-ever lung cancer screening approach to reduce lung cancer mortality.

2011 Diet and exercise found to reduce risk of colon cancer recurrence. The NCI-funded study provides new ways for patients to improve their chances of long-term survival.

2012 NCI trial finds screening with flexible sigmoidoscopy reduces colorectal cancer deaths in people over 55. The findings offer certain older patients a less invasive screening alternative to colonoscopy.

2013 The Cancer Genome Atlas project maps the DNA of 30 different types of cancers. Most notably, it shows that stomach cancer is really four different diseases with distinct tumor characteristics.

2014 Cervical cancer death rates reach new low in U.S., having declined 60 percent since 1975 thanks to technologies developed with NCI funding, together with widespread screening supported in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

2015 NCI-funded trial shows adding chemotherapy to standard hormone therapy extends the lives of men with advanced prostate cancer. It is the first-ever study to show prolonged survival for men with newly diagnosed metastatic prostate cancer.

2016 Childhood cancer survivors found to be living longer because of reduced long-term side effects. The findings reflect the benefits of NCI-led refinements in childhood cancer treatment over many years.

2017 First CAR T-cell cancer therapy is approved in the U.S. This major advance builds on NCI-funded research conducted in the late 1980s.

2018 Chemotherapy with radiation therapy extends survival for patients with glioma brain tumors. The treatment is now standard for patients with grade 2 glioma, who tend to be young.

2019 NCI-funded trial identifies first biomarker-driven treatment for advanced pancreatic cancer. The study finds the drug olaparib significantly delayed cancer progression in patients with a BRCA gene mutation.

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