

Appropriations for Medical Research and Drug Approval: Ensuring Support for Brain Tumor Research and Drug Development



Background

- There have been very few new brain tumor therapies approved in the last 30 years, BUT there is hope.
- Critical research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) is laying the groundwork for breakthroughs. The NIH is the largest funder of brain tumor research in the United States.
- NIH's work impacts the brain tumor community through many institutes including: the National Cancer Institute (NCI), National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), and National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS).
- NCI's clinical trials cooperative groups are conducting state-of-the-art research on adult glioblastoma therapy.
- NCI's Pediatric Preclinical Testing Platform (PPTP) is an essential component for evaluating the safety and efficacy of new drugs before testing directly in children.
- NCI's Neuro-oncology branch is a critical place for patients throughout the United States to seek cutting edge treatment advice.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is more committed than ever to jumpstarting brain tumor drug development by improving clinical trials.
- The Department of Defense's Peer Review Cancer Research Program is an essential funder of pediatric brain tumor research.

The Problem

- Brain tumors are one of the deadliest forms of cancer and have among the fewest therapeutic options – thus research funding is absolutely critical to finding new effective treatments.
- The funding cuts made to the NIH Institutes and the FDA through sequestration are causing slow-downs and work stoppages in brain tumor research and drug development.
- Private philanthropy cannot fill in for the key leadership role that NIH plays in funding, coordinating, and advancing research, and no amount of private funding can replace the FDA's regulatory role in evaluating and approving new treatments.

The Solution

Congress should renew its historic, bipartisan commitment to the fight against cancer, including brain tumors, by increasing appropriations for NIH in FY 2015 to \$32 billion and a commensurate increase for NCI to \$5.26 billion. We also urge Congress to provide an appropriation of \$2.78 billion for the FDA, and \$26 million for the Peer Review Cancer Research Program.



About National Brain Tumor Society

National Brain Tumor Society is the largest nonprofit organization dedicated to the brain tumor community in the United States. We are fiercely committed to finding better treatments, and ultimately a cure, for people living with a brain tumor today and those who will be diagnosed tomorrow. This means aggressively driving strategic research and advocating for public policies, which meet the critical needs of this community. It's time to build on progress and transform tomorrow, today. To learn more visit www.braintumor.org.