

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



National Brain Tumor Society urges the 115th Congress to continue working aggressively to provide robust funding for medical research to improve and save the lives of many Americans, including the nearly 700,000 living with a brain tumor.

We request that Congress support the following funding proposals in Fiscal Year 2018:

- Support an increase in FY 2018 Appropriations for the National Institutes of Health to \$36.2 billion and the National Cancer Institute to \$6 billion, and continued funding for the Cancer Moonshot and other NIH priorities as required by the 21st Century Cures Act.
- Appropriate \$60 million for the Peer Review Cancer Research Program of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs of the Department of Defense (DOD), and include adult and pediatric brain tumors as topics eligible for funding.

Background

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, and ultimately a cure for brain tumors. Private philanthropy cannot replace the level of funding, coordination, and mechanisms needed for advancing research that is provided by NIH.

There have been very few new brain tumor therapies approved in the last 30 years, but recent progress, made in large part through government funding, has given us hope.

National Institutes of Health & National Cancer Institute

- The NIH is the largest funder of brain tumor research in the United States, and studies supported via NIH grants are continuing to lay the foundation for breakthroughs.
- NIH's work impacts the brain tumor community through many institutes, including the NCI and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).
- NCI's clinical trials cooperative groups are conducting state-of-the-art research on potential new adult glioblastoma therapies.
- NCI's Pediatric Preclinical Testing Platform (PPTP) is an essential component for testing the safety and efficacy of new drugs before evaluating directly in children.
- NCI's Neuro-oncology branch is a critical place for patients throughout the United States to seek cutting-edge treatment advice.

Department of Defense

- DOD's Peer Review Cancer Research Program of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs has provided an additional, and much-needed, stream of funding for pediatric brain tumor research.

We must continue supporting these programs if real progress is to be made in the fight against brain tumors.

Progress

During the 114th Congress, there was significant emphasis on advancing medical research to discover new treatments and ultimately cures for diseases that impact millions of Americans. National Brain Tumor Society played an active role in the policymaking process, and thousands of brain tumor advocates raised their voices in support of increasing the level of federal investment in brain tumor research. Particularly, the enactment of the 21st Century Cures legislation, which included a number of important policy solutions as well as funding for the Beau Biden Cancer Moonshot, was a significant step in the fight against brain tumors.

Next Steps

The new funding stream made possible by the 21st Century Cures Act will support efforts at NIH to double the rate of progress in the fight against cancer. However, Cures Act funding alone will not be sufficient to achieve the Cancer Moonshot's goals or to achieve our nation's aim of reducing death and suffering from cancer, which go far beyond the Moonshot. Continued progress in the fight against brain tumors and all cancers requires sustained and meaningful increases for the NIH and NCI in the Fiscal Year 2018 budget, in addition to full funding for the Cancer Moonshot.

About National Brain Tumor Society

National Brain Tumor Society is the largest nonprofit organizations solely dedicated to the brain tumor community. We are fiercely committed to finding better treatments and driving rapid progress toward a cure for brain tumors. We drive a multi-faceted approach to aggressively influence and fund strategic and collaborative research, and advocate for public policies, in order to achieve the greatest impact, results, and progress for brain tumor patients. To learn more visit www.brainumor.org.