



February 9, 2016

Member Organizations

*American Association
for Cancer Research*

*American Cancer Society
Cancer Action Network*

*American Childhood
Cancer Organization*

*American College
of Radiology*

*American Society of
Clinical Oncology*

*American Society
of Hematology*

*Association of American
Cancer Institutes*

*Coalition of Cancer
Cooperative Groups*

Friends of Cancer Research

*International Cancer
Advocacy Network*

*International Myeloma
Foundation*

Kidney Cancer Association

The Lustgarten Foundation

Melanoma Research Alliance

*Pancreatic Cancer Action
Network PanCAN*

Prevent Cancer Foundation

Prostate Cancer Foundation

*The Society of Gynecologic
Oncology*

*The V Foundation for
Cancer Research*

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The Vice President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

The National Coalition for Cancer Research (NCCR) is an alliance of 19 national nonprofit cancer organizations. Its mission is to ensure that all cancer patients have the opportunity to benefit from, and participate in, all forms of cancer research. The Coalition is comprised of physicians and nurses, cancer centers and specialized research institutions, and more than 2 million cancer patients, advocates, survivors and their families.

We are writing to express our enthusiastic support for the White House cancer research “Moonshot” initiative outlined in the President’s State of the Union address and the Executive Memorandum issued on January 28, 2016. We would also like to thank you for your personal commitment to this effort, as we know how much it means to you and your family.

NCCR commends and embraces the Administration’s bold plan to significantly accelerate the pace of cancer research and foster greater collaboration among those involved in this historic program. We wholeheartedly agree with the Administration that our country must harness the expertise, commitment and energy of the scientific and patient communities throughout the world to continue and build on that knowledge. We are especially grateful that the Administration’s fiscal year 2017 budget request will include \$755 million in mandatory funding for new cancer research-related activities at the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration to accelerate the development of new methods of cancer detection and treatment.

A hallmark activity of the Coalition is its “Cancer 101” Congressional Briefing Series. The series brings together Members of Congress and their staff with the cancer research, patient, and advocacy communities to discuss the most exciting and challenging areas of basic, clinical and translational cancer research, prevention, detection and treatment.

The organization has conducted Congressional briefings on many of the areas discussed in the Executive Memorandum, including accelerating our understanding of cancer and its prevention, treatment and cure, the development of targeted cancer therapeutics, improving patient access to care, and harnessing the collective knowledge of cancer centers and institutions in multi-site research collaborations. We believe the “Cancer 101” briefings would provide meaningful benefit to the White House Cancer Moonshot Task Force, and we are more than willing to expand these briefings beyond Members of Congress and their staff to include staff from all the agencies represented on the Moonshot Task Force.

We strongly believe the wide-ranging competence and experience of our member organizations would be extremely beneficial in achieving the goals of the White House cancer research “Moonshot” program. We would welcome the opportunity to provide the collective scientific expertise and patient advocacy capabilities of the Coalition to accomplish the objectives established in the Executive Memorandum. As the Task Force conducts outreach with representatives of the cancer research and patient communities, we hope the Coalition can play a meaningful role in assisting with the development of recommendations to rapidly accelerate cancer research and progress in treatment and care.

The National Coalition for Cancer Research looks forward to working closely with the Administration, bipartisan Congressional leaders and our colleagues in the cancer community to ensure the resources and strategies are in place to make the laudable goal of a decade’s worth of advances in five years a reality. We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss the cancer research “Moonshot” initiative in greater detail and determine how the Coalition can be of greatest assistance.

Most Respectfully,

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