



# Funding Opportunities in Palliative Care Research at the American Cancer Society

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October 9, 2008



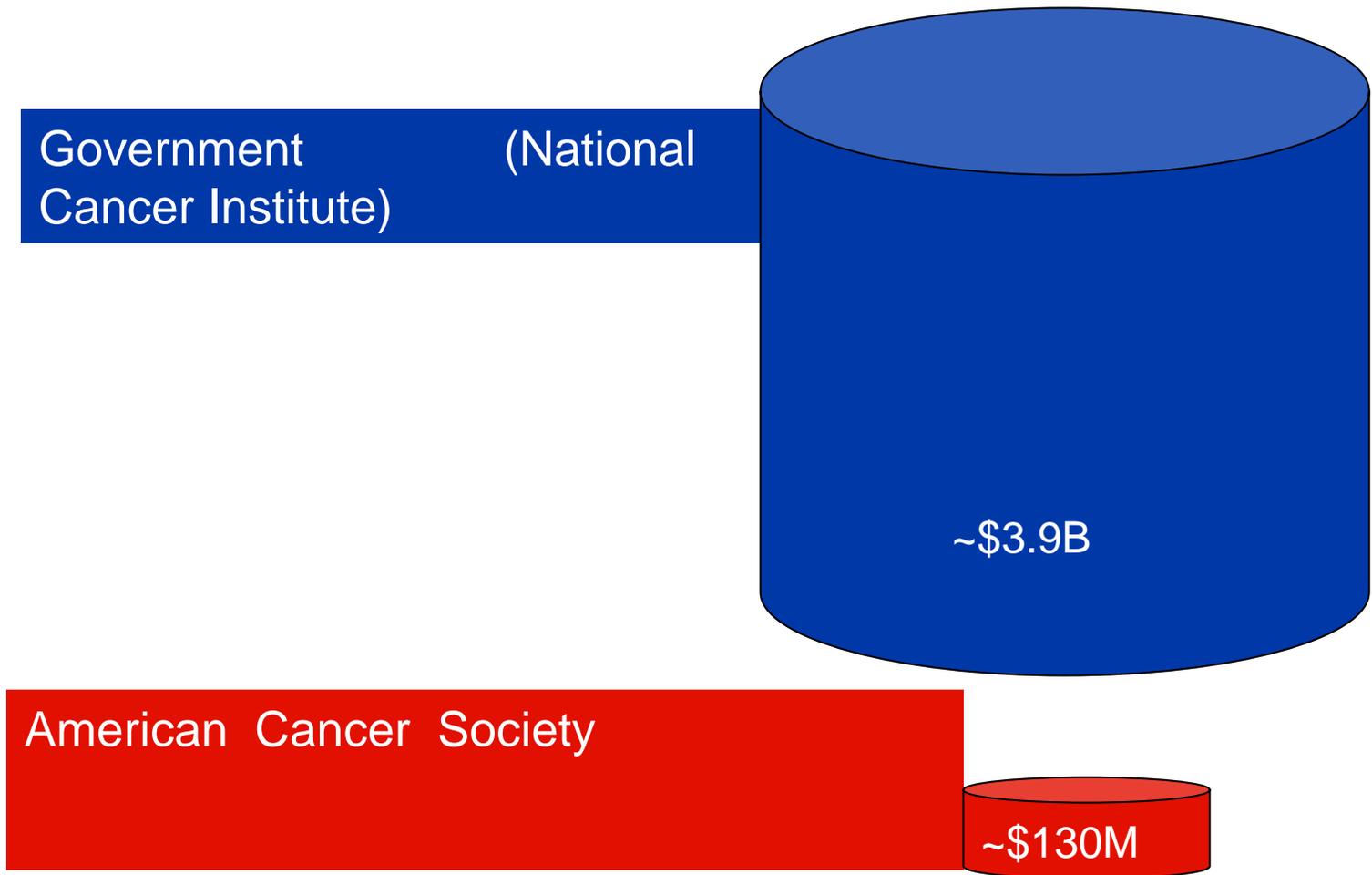
# ACS~ Money to Research



ACS dedicates **more money** to cancer research than any other private, not for profit, non-governmental funder of cancer research in the US

Since the research program began in 1946 we have awarded almost **\$2.5B**

# USA Cancer Research Funding 2007



# We are unique



Beginning Investigators

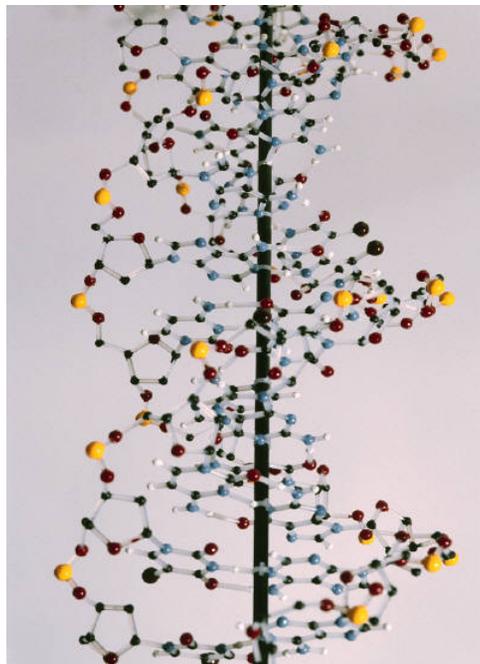


Set-aside for research that targets a need:  
Poor and Underserved



# What research are we funding now?

FY 2006-2007



Causes  
~\$12M



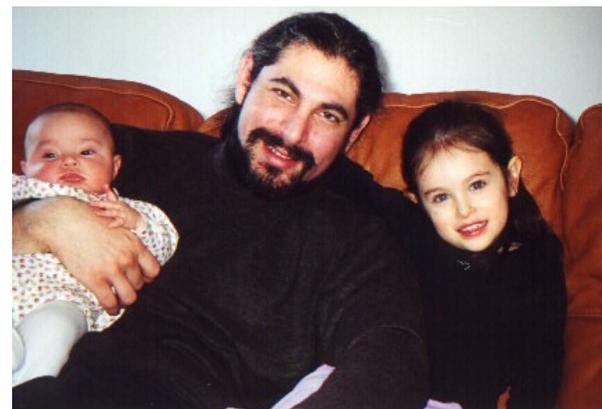
Detection~\$7M



Treatment~\$  
14M



Environmental  
~\$800,000



Epidemiology ~\$8M



Health Policy &  
Health Services  
~\$4M



Poor & Underserved  
~\$11M



Childhood cancer  
~\$5M



Prevention~\$9M



Psychosocial &  
Behavioral ~\$20M

# We fund a variety of Researchers



Bench scientists



Clinical researchers



Epidemiologists



Prevention  
Researchers

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Quality of Life  
Researchers



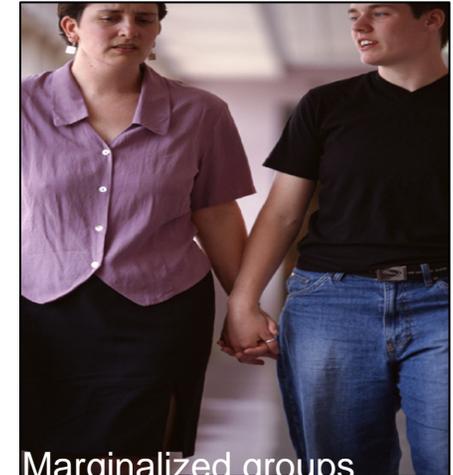
Health Policy  
Researchers

# Special Emphasis ~ Poor and Underserved

Limited access to care



10%



Marginalized groups



Reducing disparate  
death rates



Culturally-appropriate community research  
programs (CBPR)

# Palliative Care RFA



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# Purpose of RFA

Purpose: To bring much-needed research dollars to a field that has become increasingly important part of patient care, but for which federal funding is inadequate

In Collaboration: with National Palliative Care Research Center (NPCRC)

*“The goal of this initiative is to redress this lack of funding and to support research scientists who will advance the field of palliative care.”*

*~Sean Morrison, NPCRC*

500K/yr for 5 years set-aside by ACS for this RFA

# RFA Parameters

## Focus of RFA: Patients with serious illness

1. Relationship of pain & other symptoms on quality & quantity of life.
2. Improving communication between patients, their families & providers.
3. Evaluating models & systems of care for patients & their families.

**Mechanism:** Pilot studies resulting in writing of RO1

**Budget:** 60K/yr + 20% indirect. Max 2 years.

# This RFA is off to a JUMP start!

	Applications recommended for funding	Applications funded	\$ awarded
2007	10	8/10	\$1,151,000
2008	7	7/7	\$996,000

# Cancer Control Research Program



# Symptom Control and Palliative Care Committee



# What will the committee focus on?

Research proposals pertaining to adults or children with cancer and their families in the following categories:

1. **Poor** prognosis malignancies at **any** stage of illness
2. **Advanced** malignancies (recurrent or metastatic disease)
3. **Favorable prognosis** malignancies associated with a **high symptom** burden

# What can the applications focus on?

Wide range of topics

- Reducing barriers to achieve improved management of complications and side effects
- Pharmacological & non-pharmacological integrative medicine interventions to manage pain & other symptoms
- Ethical considerations for research in patients with advanced medical illness or at the end of life.
- Research design issues for research in such populations
- Cost analyses of care delivery models
- Policies and systems of care to enhance delivery of PC.

Preference will be given to proposals that incorporate a family-centered interdisciplinary approach with a multidimensional perspective, although it is recognized that such an approach may not be possible for all study designs.

## What funding mechanisms are available?

1. Postdoctoral Fellowship
2. Mentored Research Scholar Grant
3. Research Scholar Grant
4. Pilot and Exploratory Study
5. Clinical Research Professorship

# 1. Postdoctoral Fellowship

**Purpose:** Initial funding for junior investigators

**Eligibility:** Post Ph.D./MD but pre-faculty

**Award:** 3 years (\$40K, \$42K, \$44K)/year

**Deadline:** October and April every year

## 2. Mentored Research Scholar Grant

**Purpose:** Help junior faculty become independent investigators

**Eligibility:** 1<sup>st</sup> 4 years of independent faculty

**Award:** 5 years \$135K/year

**Deadline:** October and April every year

### 3. Research Scholar Grant

**Purpose:** Support researchers conducting independent research

**Eligibility:** 1<sup>st</sup> 6 years of independent faculty

**Award:** 4 years \$200K/year

**Deadline:** October and April every year

## 4. Pilot and Exploratory Projects

**Purpose:** Support researchers in palliative care to collect pilot data for future RO1/RSG

**Eligibility:** Any stage of career

**Award:** 2 years \$60K/year

**Deadline:** October ONLY

## 5. Clinical Research Professorship

**Purpose:** Support select few researchers who have made SEMINAL contribution to their field who will provide leadership

**Eligibility:** Mid career

**Award:** 5 years \$80K/year

**Deadline:** Letter of intent: Aug 1<sup>st</sup>  
If invited: Oct 15th

# What are some commonly asked questions?



# 1. Is ACS interested in MY study?

We're interested in ALL studies

Remember that having a great (important) idea is NOT enough

## 2. How many applications do you fund?

Wrong question!

you want funding, apply!

If

Your study Must be Outstanding (1.0-1.5)

to be

considered for funding in the Cancer Control Research program

Our goal:

100%

outstanding funded. We come very close to it in the Cancer Control Program

### 3. What makes a *Scholar Grant* outstanding?

1. Innovative, interesting, a real contribution
2. Sound methodology
  - Provide pilot data
  - Provide details on who, how, what, when
  - Get expert advice!
3. Feasible = “dirt under fingernails”
4. PI and collaborators track record
5. Institutional Support

It's your peers who decide who to fund. NOT ACS

## 4. What makes a *mentored /PF* application outstanding?

1. **You** (your record and your potential)
2. **Your mentor(s)**: track record, dedication to you
3. **Your Research Plan**
  - Realistic
  - Feasible
  - Sound methodology
4. **Your Training Plan**
  - Ties in with your goals
  - Plan that will get you where you want to be

## 5. **Institutional** Support

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## 4. What makes a *PILOT* application outstanding?

### 1. You and your team

- Your record and
- Your potential

### 2. Your Research Plan

- Realistic
- Feasible
- Sound methodology

### 3. Your RO1/RSG plan

- The pilot data will lead to this
- The goal is significant/innovative

### 4. Institutional Support

# 5. If my application is recommended for funding by the Committee but falls below the pay line: Is there Any Hope?

## Pay-IF program



## 6. What's The Best Advice You Can Give Me?

1. Read the guidelines carefully
2. Follow the guidelines
3. Ask your mentors/experts/funded investigators for advice
4. **Before** the application: **email** me w ?s
5. After review & invitation for appt: Grab a slot



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Research Gives Us Hope

