Cancer Moonshot
David Arons, CEO, National Brain Tumor Society
darons@braintumor.org
Biden and Moonshot

“It’s personal for me. But it’s also personal for nearly every American, and millions of people around the world. We all know someone who has had cancer, or is fighting to beat it. They’re our family, friends, and co-workers.”

“And the goal of this initiative—this “Moonshot”—is to seize this moment. To accelerate our efforts to progress towards a cure, and to unleash new discoveries and breakthroughs for other deadly diseases.”
Cancer Moonshot Mission

We are at an inflection point, and the science is ready for the concerted new effort this initiative will deliver. Cancer is now known to be hundreds of diseases, each with unique features, driving forces, and vulnerabilities to treatments -- and scientific understanding of how cancer develops and spreads has improved our ability to intervene and attack it.

The National Cancer Moonshot will work to accelerate these research efforts and break down barriers to progress by enhancing data access, and facilitating collaborations with researchers, doctors, philanthropies, patients, and patient advocates, and biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies.

The initiative aims to bring about a decade’s worth of advances in five years, making more therapies available to more patients, while also improving our ability to prevent cancer and detect it at an early stage.
Executive Order: Moonshot Taskforce
Moonshot Taskforce

- (i) the Department of Defense;
- (ii) the Department of Commerce;
- (iii) the Department of Health and Human Services;
- (iv) the Department of Energy;
- (v) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (vi) the Office of Management and Budget;
- (vii) the National Economic Council;
- (viii) the Domestic Policy Council;
- (ix) the Office of Science and Technology Policy;
- (x) the Food and Drug Administration;
- (xi) the National Cancer Institute (NCI);
- (xii) the National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- (xiii) the National Science Foundation; and
- (xiv) such other executive branch departments, agencies, or offices as the President may designate.
Moonshot Taskforce

• The functions of the Task Force are advisory only and shall include, but shall not be limited to, producing a detailed set of findings and recommendations to:
  • (a) accelerate our understanding of cancer, and its prevention, early detection, treatment, and cure;
  • (b) improve patient access and care;
  • (c) support greater access to new research, data, and computational capabilities;
  • (d) encourage development of cancer treatments;
  • (e) identify and address any unnecessary regulatory barriers and consider ways to expedite administrative reforms;
  • (f) ensure optimal investment of Federal resources; and
  • (g) identify opportunities to develop public-private partnerships and increase coordination of the Federal Government's efforts with the private sector, as appropriate.
NCI (NCAB) Blue Ribbon Panel

- “The Blue Ribbon Panel … will provide expert advice on the vision, proposed scientific goals, and implementation of the National Cancer Moonshot. ..The panel may also recommend other cancer research activities to enhance this effort. – Presidential Executive Order
- Chairs - Tyler Jacks, Liz Jaffee, Dinah Singer
- Ex Officio Members: David Atkins, Robert Califf, Jason Paragas, David Smith, Larry Tabak
- Peter Adamson is also on NCAB**

National Brain Tumor Society
www.braintumor.org
# BRP Working Groups

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<td>Gaddy Getz</td>
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Cross-cutting Themes

• Prevention
• Technology and preclinical models
• Data sharing and predictive computational modeling
• Health Disparities research
• Tumor heterogeneity
• Biomarkers
• Public-private partnerships and collaborations
Pediatric Cancer Working Group

- Peter Adamson and James Downing (Co-Chairs)
- NCI Staff: Judy Mietz and Malcolm Smith
Pediatric Cancer

“Children are not just small adults; their cancers are different in many ways from those in older individuals. Improving childhood cancer outcomes requires both a better mechanistic understanding of cancer in general as well as an understanding of cancer in children specifically. Important issues to address include the molecular drivers of childhood cancer, which are often different from those of adult cancers; the causes of childhood cancer; and the development of therapies that are less toxic to children’s developing bodies.”

https://cancerresearchideas.cancer.gov/a/ideas/recent/campaign-filter/byids/campaigns/17567
Pediatric Working Group

- Basic biology – targeting factors that regulate gene expression
- Identifying molecular mutations that drive malignancy
- Precision Medicine Approaches including but not limited to immuno-oncology
Task Force vs. Blue Ribbon (NCAB)

- Blue Ribbon Panel is mainly addressing research including ideas for acceleration, reducing barriers and eliminating silos – transformative project ideas.
- Blue Ribbon Panel can identify and provide thought on policy but was told to identify issues to be discussed by the Task Force.
- Task Force is addressing ways to reduce governmental barriers and leverage inter-governmental resources for Moonshot.
- VP’s staff is working on policy and partnership ideas.
Cancer Moonshot: What’s Next/What’s Needed

- **Action Opportunity**: Pediatric Cancer Ideas/Thoughts – Welcome and Wanted via NCI website (due July 1)
- **Action Opportunity**: VP Biden’s Moonshot Summit – June 29 – Host or Attend a Moonshot Regional or Local Summit
- By mid to end of July: Blue Ribbon Panel completes work and delivers report to NCAB – then NCAB delivers to Moonshot Taskforce and VP Biden
- **Action Opportunity**: Urge Congress to Appropriate Sufficient funding for the Moonshot: at least $680 million
- Summer/Fall – VP’s Staff Continue to Work to Advance Policy/Procedures/Practice to Advance Cancer Research (Action Opportunity)
- Fall 2016 – NIH/NCI Work on Turning Moonshot Projects into Funding Opportunities
Key Avenues for Participation

https://cancerresearchideas.cancer.gov/

• Send an email message to cancerresearch@nih.gov.
• Take part in social media events, such as Google Hangouts, to learn about the National Cancer Moonshot in general and the Blue Ribbon Panel specifically. Go to NCI’s social media events page for updates and subscribe to get email updates from NCI on the Moonshot Initiative.

• http://www.cancer.gov/research/key-initiatives/moonshot-cancer-initiative/get-involved