



A PATIENT-CENTERED FORUM OF NATIONAL ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN CANCER

July 17, 2009

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

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations dedicated to cancer research, diagnosis and care applaud your commitment to the cancer research enterprise in the form of enhanced funding for the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In order to take optimal advantage of this important investment by the American people and to ensure that such funds are appropriately managed, the appointment of the Director of the NCI is critical.

In anticipation of the appointment of a new NCI Director, our groups have developed a joint recommendation for qualities necessary in any candidate for this position. After extensive consultation, we have determined that the new NCI Director should be an individual who:

- Enjoys an outstanding research record and the respect of peers in cancer research;
- Possesses an understanding of translational and clinical research and an appreciation of the need for a balanced portfolio of basic and applied research;
- Is willing to maintain a high level of transparency and accountability regarding the NCI research program by engaging patient advocates and others outside the NCI organization in priority setting and portfolio review;
- Recognizes the necessity of research collaboration with extramural research organizations, including private research foundations and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries;
- Possesses management experience adaptable to budgetary environments of either restraint or growth and capable of creating a climate of collaboration among senior managers of the Institute; and
- Embraces an integrated and comprehensive approach to cancer care and research, encouraging research across the continuum of care.

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