

TULSA WORLD

Letter to the editor: More funding needed for cancer research

Posted: Wednesday, December 17, 2014 12:00 am

By Sheppard F. Miers, Jr., Tulsa

The National Cancer Institute has sent its fiscal 2016 annual plan and budget proposal to the president and Congress, recommending increased federal spending for cancer research. It is a scientific-based proposal for appropriations and plans to fight cancer. It is available at the National Cancer Institute web site. Increases requested include funding for its Provocative Questions Initiative on the most difficult subjects involved in basic cell biology and its new multi-year Outstanding Investigator Award that encourages research with scientific discovery breakthrough potential. The NCI directs and leads research by making grants to scientists, and for studies by medical research and academic institutions across the U.S. This includes grants made to scientists conducting cancer research in Oklahoma. Cancer will take 585,000 lives in the U.S. in 2014. Despite that number, the institute budget typically has been only about 1 percent of the amount of the U. S. Department of Defense budget each fiscal year. People interested in supporting cancer research should write to their representatives in Congress and urge approval of the increase of appropriations to the National Cancer Institute. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network has helpful online information and guidance for contacting members of Congress to advocate increased federal investment in cancer research.

Editor's note: Miers is director, Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research.