

**CHARLENE MIERS FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH
PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

Posted to Director's Notes, The National Cancer Institute, www.cancer.gov
Re: Mary Lasker: A Matchmaker Between Science and Society
October 16, 2009

Dr. Niederhuber,

Your salute to Ms. Lasker and her exemplary efforts in championing biomedical research, particularly her insightful work that led to the enactment of the National Cancer Act of 1971, is an inspiring account of dedicated service to the nation.

If Ms. Lasker's actions were as instrumental in creation of what we know as the National Cancer Program, and left a legacy of life-saving discovery as you describe, then recognizing her in the Act itself would seem fitting and advantageous in meeting America's urgent need for continued cancer research.

We have prepared a draft statement that you and your staff might consider for changes to the Act as shown below. The enactment of such as a permanent feature in the law governing the NCI and National Cancer Program would give recognition to the accomplishments and dedication of Ms. Lasker in a way she would seem to appreciate and advocate (money for research), and demonstrate continuing commitment of Congress and the American people to defeat cancer.

If we can help you or the NCI further on this suggestion or in any other way, please contact us. Thank you for your consideration of our comments here, and dedication to achieving the objectives of cancer research that you have noted were so important to Ms. Lasker.

Sheppard F. Miers, Jr.
Director, Charlene B. Miers Foundation for Cancer Research

**DRAFT AMENDMENT OF NATIONAL CANCER ACT OF 1971
Mary Lasker Future in Cancer Research Funding Act**

Amend Title 42 United States Code, to add:

"42 USC §285a-13 Mary Lasker Future in Cancer Research Grants

(a) The Director of NIH shall expand, intensify, and coordinate programs for the conduct and support of research of the causes, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure of cancer, in furtherance of the vision and ideas of Mary Lasker.

(b) The Director of NIH acting with and through the Director of the National Cancer Institute to carry out this section shall, after such consultation with any advisory boards they determine to be helpful, provide for and cause one or more grants of funds to be made by the National Cancer Institute each fiscal year for research projects or programs that they determine to be among the most promising to achieve the objectives of the National Cancer Program. Each such grant shall be designated and known as a Mary Lasker Future in Cancer Research Grant.

(c) The total amount of the grant or grants made each fiscal year pursuant to subsection (b) shall equal the amount appropriated for the fiscal year pursuant to section 2 of the Mary Lasker Future in Cancer Research Funding Act (42 USC §285a-14)."

“42 USC § 285a-14. Authorization of appropriations

For purposes of carrying out this subpart, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for the fiscal year 2010, and the same amount for each fiscal year thereafter, adjusted upward for increases in the cost of living as determined by the Congressional Budget Office, as a continuing permanent appropriation. Such appropriations are in addition to the other authorizations of appropriations established or approved with respect to such purposes."

Posted by: Sheppard F. Miers, Jr., Director, Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research | 10/20/09 at 4:42 pm