

CHARLENE MIERS FOUNDATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH

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U. S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
Office of Planning and Policy Support
Attn: Strategic Plan Comments
200 Independence Avenue, SW.
Room 408B
Washington, DC 20101

Re: Department of Health and Human Services
Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2010-2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

This letter is submitted as comment on the Department of Health and Human Services Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2010-2015.

We propose and recommend that Goal 2: Advance Scientific Knowledge and Innovation, Objective A: Accelerate the process of scientific discovery to improve patient care have the following stated strategies:

“Strategies

- Expand the knowledge base in biomedical and behavioral sciences by investing in fundamental and service system research, human capital development, and scientific information systems;
- Support promising biomedical research to save lives, reduce the burden of chronic diseases, and discover new and most effective steps for prevention;
- As a part of and in furtherance of the support of biomedical research for such purposes:
 - Advance and coordinate efforts of the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute to discover of the causes, prevention and cure of cancer, with broadened, intensified efforts on metastasis of cancer;

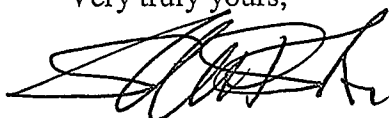
- Foster and obtain the necessary collaboration of government and private sector research activity to achieve fastest possible discovery;
- Together with the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute authorize, direct and produce the strategy of the National Cancer Program to include a strategic objective of reducing the cancer mortality rate to a specific level by the end of FY2015;
- With the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute prepare and publish a study and budget of the total cost for the period of FY 2010-2015 to achieve that strategic objective;
- Provide through the National Institutes of Health and National Cancer Institute an annual report of progress in achieving that strategic objective, to include results of all research projects in progress and completed and contribution of each project to achieving it;
- Foster evidence-based health care through research;
- Promote translation of research into practice;
- Provide access to resources that facilitate the translation of basic laboratory discoveries into therapies and services research into practice improvements; and

Support comprehensive and efficient regulatory review of new medical treatments.”

We advocate this part of your Strategic Plan FY 2010-2015 put focus on developing and carrying out a set of key strategies on cancer research. Cancer now takes the lives of nearly 570,000 persons and costs more than \$220 billion in the United States each year. That is a national health crisis requiring a dramatically accelerated solution. Stating specific features and a defining goal of a plan for discovering how to end the disease should be in the overall strategic plan of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Thank you for your efforts to improve health of Americans and for considering and acting upon our comments on the FY 2010-2015 Strategic Plan.

Very truly yours,



Sheppard F. Miers, Jr.
President/Director

Charlene Miers Foundation
for Cancer Research