

TULSA WORLD

Letter to the editor: More money needed for cancer research

By Sheppard F. Miers Jr., Tulsa | Posted: Sunday, November 1, 2015 12:00 am

The National Cancer Institute has published its annual plan and budget proposal for fiscal 2017, asking Congress to appropriate \$5.45 billion to the NCI for cancer research.

The proposal asks Congress for a 7 percent funding increase to catch up from lesser amounts appropriated over the last 10 years, develop the most effective diagnosis and treatment techniques and stimulate high-risk but potentially breakthrough discovery research projects. Dr. Douglas Lowy, NCI director, says the U.S. has a transformational moment in cancer research within reach.

Scientists at the Stephenson Cancer Center at the University of Oklahoma receive NCI grants for basic scientific research on cancer and to find new treatments. The NCI proposal describes what federal government funding has done and must do.

NCI-led research reduced the U.S. cancer death rate by 23 percent from 1990 to 2012. That research made surviving cancer a truly lifesaving result for 14 million Americans.

But fighting and beating cancer still needs much greater funding, more researchers and taking on the most challenging research studies. There will be 592,000 cancer deaths and 1.66 million new cancer cases in 2015.

The NCI proposal and plan emphasizes that predictable long-term funding of research by Congress is essential to most effectively control cancer.

Read the plan and proposal online at the NCI web site. Please write members of Congress and ask them to vote for this NCI scientific based proposal for how to best plan and fund cancer research.

Editor's note: *Miers is director of the Charlene Miers Foundation for Cancer Research*