



PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK®
ADVANCE RESEARCH. SUPPORT PATIENTS. CREATE HOPE.

June 27, 2013

Harold E. Varmus, MD, Director
National Cancer Institute
Building 31, Room 11A48
31 Center Drive
Mail Stop: 2590
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Dr. Varmus:

On behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, I am writing to commend the National Cancer Institute's recently released report of the "Pancreatic Cancer: Scanning the Horizon for Focused Interventions" meeting that was held in October 2012.

Our understanding is that this report will serve as the foundation for the scientific framework on pancreatic cancer called for by the *Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act of 2012*. We particularly appreciate the thoughtfulness with which the working group considered the full breadth of issues that must be addressed in pancreatic cancer research, and the group's four recommended research initiatives: targeting the gene mutation K-ras, investigating the link between diabetes and pancreatic cancer, identifying biomarkers for early detection, and immunotherapy. We believe that the high-risk, high-impact initiatives set forth in the meeting report are the exact type of projects the NCI should lead, and we look forward to working with you on their implementation. I am attaching a copy of our press release commending NCI for releasing the meeting report.

As you move forward with developing the scientific framework called for in the statute, we especially look forward to learning more about how you plan to implement these initiatives; what steps will be taken to ensure that there are an adequate number of pancreatic cancer researchers, what coordinated research initiatives and resources are needed, and benchmarks for progress. We stand ready to assist you in any way possible to see that the letter and spirit of the law are implemented as intended.

I can assure you that the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network will continue to be a staunch advocate for NCI. Without question, it is essential that Congress makes a permanent fix to sequestration and that the NCI is afforded sustained, adequate funding to pursue the most promising avenues of research with respect to pancreatic cancer and other forms of cancer. That was the message delivered to Congress on June 18, by over 500 of our volunteers. On July 8, Congress will hear a similar message from our colleagues in One Voice Against Cancer. We have already begun to see a response from Congress and are hopeful that through these efforts, we will be able to create a drumbeat of members

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calling for an end to sequestration and increased resources for NCI-- a goal that is necessary to achieving our shared goal of ending pancreatic cancer.

In January, we requested a meeting with NCI's programmatic staff to learn more about the implementation of the Act and a continuation of our annual meeting with your staff on general issues related to pancreatic cancer research. We are hopeful that these meetings will be scheduled in the near future.

In the meantime, thank you again for your leadership by convening the October 2012 meeting and releasing the meeting report. We look forward to discussing next steps with you and/or your staff.

Sincerely,

Julie Fleshman, JD, MBA
President & CEO

Attachment: Pancreatic Cancer Action Network June 27, 2013 Press Release

cc: The Honorable Anna Eshoo
The Honorable Leonard Lance
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Henry Waxman
The Honorable Eric Cantor
The Honorable Tom Harkin
The Honorable Michael Enzi

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