

Help Stop the Second Most Common Cause of Cancer Deaths in the U.S.

Support Fiscal Year 2011 Funding for Colorectal Cancer Research at the Department of Defense

State of the Science

Much progress has been made in the fight against colorectal cancer.

In 1980:

- Screening for colorectal cancer was not standard medical practice.
- Many people were not diagnosed until they had symptoms of colorectal cancer. Symptoms may not occur until colorectal cancer is advanced and most resistant to treatment.
- Treatment options were limited to surgery, perhaps one drug, perhaps radiation, and “best supportive care.”
- People diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer lived approximately six months after their diagnosis.

Thanks to research, 2010 looks much different:

- Most colorectal cancer begins as a polyp in your colon, and we know that removal of polyps can prevent the vast majority of colorectal cancer, and that screening can find colorectal cancer early, when it's most curable.
- More people are getting screened than ever before.
- Treatment options have expanded to **seven** drugs, and more precise surgery and radiation.
- People diagnosed with metastatic colorectal cancer are living over two years past their diagnosis, and some are even cured.

Request

- **\$50 million in funding for the Peer Reviewed Cancer Research Program (PRCRP) at the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2011.**
- The PRCRP funds research for a number of cancers including colorectal cancer. The program supports high-quality cancer research, concentrating its resources on research mechanisms which complement rather than duplicate the research approaches of the major funders of medical research in the United States.
- Last year alone approximately 422,600 Americans were diagnosed with one of the cancers included in the PRCRP and 127,730 Americans lost their life to one of these diseases.
- To reduce the number of deaths from these cancers and improve the lives of those suffering from these cancers, it is essential that scientific investigators receive the resources they need to increase their understanding of these diseases and develop life-saving treatment options.

Questions?

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