

DDF CONGRESSIONAL MEETING “CHEAT SHEET”

INTRODUCE YOURSELF

- Say where you live.
- Say thank you if the lawmaker has been helpful in the past.
- Explain why you are participating in Advocacy Day. Share your story.

PEER REVIEWED CANCER RESEARCH PROGRAM

- Ask that Congress maintain stomach cancer in the PRCRP in FY 2024 and increase program funding.
- Stomach cancer is service connected, including because service members who are deployed are at risk of *H. pylori*, the leading risk factor of stomach cancer.
- Ask the lawmaker to sign letter to Appropriations Defense Subcommittee asking that stomach cancer remain in the PRCRP. Letter leaders: Reps. Lois Frankel and Joe Wilson and Sen. Mazie Hirono.
- Stomach cancer has been in the PRCRP for 9 years. To date, the PRCRP has supported more than \$30 million in stomach cancer research.

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

- Ask that Congress increase FY 2024 funding for the NCI to \$9.988 billion.
- Express appreciation for past NIH and NCI funding increases.
- Share your excitement the NCI has awarded six R01 grants under the new *Program on the Origins of Gastroesophageal Cancers*.
- The *NCI Clinical Trials and Translational Research Advisory Committee ad hoc Gastric and Esophageal Cancers Working Group* was newly convened in 2021. In November 2022, the Working Group issued its report which recommended the development of precision approaches for the prevention, screening, detection, surveillance, and treatment of stomach cancer.
- The report and R01 grants wouldn't have been possible without support from Congress.
- Increased funding to the NCI is critical to fulfilling the recommendations of the NCI Working Group.
- Demand for NCI grants continues to outpace funding and deters researchers, particularly in cancers where the science is immature. Increasing NCI's budget ensures promising cancer research gets funded.

OTHER POINTS

- Incidence of certain types of stomach cancer appear to be increasing, including in younger adults, even though overall stomach cancer rates are declining.
- There are few effective treatments for stomach cancer and diagnosis often occurs at a late stage.
- 80% percent of patients are asymptomatic during the early stages. Late diagnosis = low survival rates. Advance stage stomach cancer survival rate is 6%.
- Stomach cancer is a recalcitrant cancer with a five-year survival rate of 33%.
- An estimated 26,500 Americans will be diagnosed with stomach cancer this year; 11,000 will die.