President’s Cancer Panel
2003 Annual Report

Living Beyond Cancer:
Finding a New Balance

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President’s Cancer Panel
LaSalle D. Leffall, Jr., M.D., F.A.C.S., Chairman
Margaret L. Kripke, Ph.D.
Lance Armstrong

Executive Secretary
Maureen O. Wilson, Ph.D.
Report Dissemination

- President of the United States
- Secretary of Health and Human Services
- Director of the National Institutes of Health
- Leaders in Congress
- Cancer-Related Organizations
- Public
Reports of the Panel

• *Facing Cancer in Indian County: The Yakama Nation and Pacific Northwest Tribes* (2002)
• *Voices of a Broken System: Real People, Real Problems* (2000-2001)
• *The National Cancer Program: Assessing the Past, Charting the Future* (1999)
• *Cancer Care Issues in the United States: Quality of Care, Quality of Life* (1998)
• *The Meaning of Race in Science: Considerations for Cancer Research* (1997)
• *Fighting the War on Cancer in an Evolving Health Care System* (1996)

Findings and Recommendations in Five Categories

- Across the life span
- Survivors diagnosed as:
  - Children (Birth-14)
  - Adolescents and Young Adults (15-29)
  - Adults (30-59)
  - Older Adults (60 and over)
Issues Affecting Survivors Across the Life Span
Recommendation

Every patient should be given a record of all care received and important disease characteristics.
Every patient should receive a follow-up care plan incorporating available evidence-based standards of care.
The Department of Health and Human Services should establish a consortium to develop standards for creating a nationwide electronic health records system.

Recommendation
All survivors should be counseled about common psychosocial effects of cancer and cancer treatment and provided specific referrals to available support groups and services.
Issues of Cancer Survivors Diagnosed as Children
Recommendation

NCI and the Department of Education should explore collaborative opportunities to improve the classroom re-entry and reintegration of young people with cancer or other chronic or catastrophic illnesses.
Providers should train and assist parents to assume their crucial roles in helping the child with cancer return to school.
Issues of Cancer Survivors Diagnosed as Adolescents or Young Adults
Representatives from public agencies and private organizations should be convened to determine what would be required to better capture treatment and survival data on adolescent and young adult cancer survivors.
The Institute of Medicine should be commissioned to evaluate the impact of HIPAA provisions.
All should be given complete information about options for preserving fertility and on possible effects of treatment on pregnancy or offspring before cancer therapy.
Issues of Cancer Survivors Diagnosed as Adults
Recommendation

Major cancer clinician and research organizations should develop more complete recommendations to guide the post treatment care of survivors of adult-onset cancers.
Issues of Cancer Survivors Diagnosed as Older Adults
The Institute of Medicine should assess the impact of Medicare legislative changes on older cancer patients’ access to care and follow-up services.
Health care providers must ascertain the strength of an older survivor’s social and caregiver support system at diagnosis, during treatment, and at intervals after treatment is completed.