



American Cancer Society 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS

This timeline represents just a fraction of the progress made by your American Cancer Society over the past 100 years.
Unless otherwise noted, all researchers shown are past or current grant recipients.

**1913**

THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY IS FOUNDED

Fifteen physicians and businessmen in New York City, determined to raise public awareness about cancer, form the American Society for the Control of Cancer, later renamed the American Cancer Society.

1946

RALLY TO FIND CURES

Philanthropist Mary Lasker and her colleagues revolutionize the Society's mission and fundraising efforts, raising more than \$4 million — \$1 million of which was used to establish our groundbreaking research program.

**1948**

THE PAP TEST

The Society pushes for wide adoption of the Pap test, developed by George Papanicolaou, MD, PhD. The use of this simple test has resulted in a more than 70% decrease in death from cancer of the uterine cervix in the U.S.

1936

WOMEN'S FIELD ARMY

A group of passionate women take to the streets to educate people about cancer and to raise money, making monumental contributions to the Society and the anti-cancer movement.

**1946**

FIRST NOBEL PRIZE

Wendell Stanley, PhD, and Hermann Muller, PhD, become the first Society grant recipients to win Nobel Prizes, for crystallizing a virus and for discovering mutations due to x-rays, respectively.

1947

FIRST CHEMO REGIMEN

The first successful chemotherapy treatment is discovered. Society-funded researcher Sidney Farber, MD, produces remissions in childhood leukemia with an anti-folate drug, minopterin.

**1953**

BUILDING BLOCKS

James Watson, PhD, (with Francis Crick, PhD) establishes the double helical structure of DNA, for which they are awarded the Nobel Prize in 1962.

**1954**

SMOKING AND LUNG CANCER

The Society's Hammond-Horn study confirms the link between smoking and lung cancer. The tobacco control movement begins, leading to a 50% drop in smoking and a reduction in lung cancer death rates.

1959

CANCER PREVENTION STUDY I

The Society's Cancer Prevention Study I (CPS I) begins in 1959, launching an era of cancer prevention research. These studies together involved more than 2 million people and have resulted in more than 500 scientific reports.

**1969**

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN

The Society launches its Reach To Recovery® program, through which trained breast cancer survivors offer hope and help to women facing the disease.

**1970**

HOPE LODGE

The first American Cancer Society Hope Lodge facility opens in Charleston, South Carolina. Each Hope Lodge offers a free, temporary place to stay for cancer patients and their caregivers when traveling away from home for treatment. Today, there are 31 Hope Lodge locations nationwide.

**1955**

VICTORY AGAINST LEUKEMIA

Emil J. Freireich, MD, and colleagues design the first scientific clinical trial for combination cancer chemotherapy; by 1962, they achieve a 15% cure rate in childhood leukemia.

**1966**

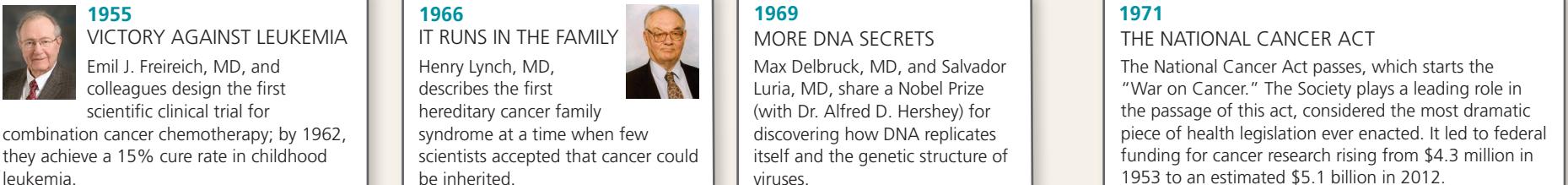
IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

Henry Lynch, MD, describes the first hereditary cancer family syndrome at a time when few scientists accepted that cancer could be inherited.

1969

MORE DNA SECRETS

Max Delbrück, MD, and Salvador Luria, MD, share a Nobel Prize (with Dr. Alfred D. Hershey) for discovering how DNA replicates itself and the genetic structure of viruses.

**1971**

THE NATIONAL CANCER ACT

The National Cancer Act passes, which starts the "War on Cancer." The Society plays a leading role in the passage of this act, considered the most dramatic piece of health legislation ever enacted. It led to federal funding for cancer research rising from \$4.3 million in 1953 to an estimated \$5.1 billion in 2012.

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1972

BONE MARROW TRANSPLANTS

E. Donnall Thomas, MD, pioneers the technique of bone marrow transplantation to treat cancer. He receives the Nobel Prize in 1990.

1976

THE GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT



The Society hosts an event in California to help nearly 1 million smokers quit for the day. Now held nationwide, the event challenges people to stop using tobacco and provides the support to quit.

1980

EARLY DETECTION GUIDELINES

The Society first sets its guidelines for the early detection of breast cancer, which are regularly reviewed and updated based on new research.

1983

TRANSPORTATION FOR PATIENTS

The Road To Recovery® program is adopted nationwide by the Society after a group of dedicated patient service volunteers in central Massachusetts developed the concept in the mid-70s. It becomes one of the first systematic approaches to providing free transportation for local patients in need.



1973

MAMMOGRAPHY



The Society invests in a mammography study that demonstrates it is the best tool for the early detection of breast cancer.

1978

BREAST CANCER



The FDA approves tamoxifen for treating estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer. Bernard Fisher, MD, Richard Love, MD, and V. Craig Jordan, PhD, develop and carry out the first trial of tamoxifen to prevent recurrence in breast cancer survivors.

1982

CPS II BEGINS

The Society's Cancer Prevention Study II (CPS II) begins, following 1.2 million participants to analyze cancer risk and preventive factors. Subgroups have clarified links between cancer risk and obesity, diet, exercise and hormone use.

1985

RELAY FOR LIFE



Gordy Klatt, MD, walks and runs for 24 hours around a track, raising \$27,000 and launching the Relay For Life movement, which today involves 1 in every 100 Americans and has raised more than \$4 billion.

1989

LOOK GOOD FEEL BETTER

In collaboration with the Personal Care Products Council and the Professional Beauty Association, the Society begins training volunteers to offer practical techniques to patients for managing appearance-related side effects of treatment.



1993

MAKING STRIDES



The first Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk is held. Today, the walk has raised \$460 million for breast cancer research and patient services, drawing 1 million participants in nearly 300 communities each year.

1995

CANCER.ORG LAUNCHED



Today, the Society's Web site sees 23 million visitors a year, offering them trusted cancer information and helping people find resources in their local communities.

1997

FIRST 24/7 CANCER INFORMATION CALL CENTER

Through this service, the Society today provides free information, answers and support any time day or night to nearly 1 million callers every year.



1990

BRCA1 GENE FOUND

Mary-Claire King, PhD, localizes the BRCA1 gene for inherited susceptibility to breast cancer to a specific site on chromosome 17. King becomes the Walt Disney American Cancer Society Research Professor in 1994.

1993

COACHES VS. CANCER® BEGINS



The National Association of Basketball Coaches partners with the Society to raise cancer awareness and funds, and help coaches, players and fans join the Society's lifesaving cause. Annual events have so far raised more than \$87 million.

1995

STUDYING BEHAVIORS

The Society's Behavioral Research Center begins examining the psychosocial and behavioral aspects of cancer. Studies have focused on quality of life for survivors and strategies for addressing the needs of underserved populations.

1997

MORTALITY RATE DROPS

The nation celebrates the first downturn in the cancer mortality rate, with overall cancer death rates falling 1.6% between 1991 and 1995.



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1998

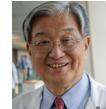
INCIDENCE RATES DOWN

First overall decrease in new cases of cancer is documented; incidence rates fell 0.7% per year between 1990 and 1995.



2000

WAUN KI HONG, MD



A team of scientists including Waun Ki Hong, MD, announces that the combination of chemotherapy with p53 gene therapy caused tumors to shrink in 25% to 30% of head and neck cancer patients.

2001

FIGHTING BACK WITH ADVOCACY



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) forms with the goal of urging lawmakers to join the fight against cancer. Today, ACS CAN is the leading cancer advocacy organization.

2003

OBESITY AND CANCER LINKED

Using data from CPS II, Society researchers led by Eugenia Calle, PhD, conclude that being overweight or obese contributes to most types of cancer and could account for 14% of cancer deaths in men and 20% of cancer deaths in women.



1998

DENNIS SLAMON, MD

Slamon shows that Herceptin, a genetically engineered monoclonal antibody, improves the survival of women with advanced breast cancer.

2000

CANCER SURVIVORS NETWORK

The American Cancer Society Cancer Survivors NetworkSM is launched, connecting registered members to a caring online community where survivors and their loved ones share their own personal stories and offer support.



2002

CLINICAL TRIALS MATCHING SERVICE

To provide patients in treatment with improved access to clinical trials, the Society launches its Clinical Trials Matching Service. The free service easily sorts through more than 6,000 studies and provides a list of trials for which patients may be eligible.

2005

NEW LUNG CANCER THERAPY

The FDA approves Alimta (pemetrexed) for treating locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer. The drug had previously been approved for treating malignant mesothelioma when former grantee Nicholas Vogelzang, MD, directed its clinical trial.



2006

CPS-3 BEGINS

Enrollment begins for Cancer Prevention Study-3 (CPS-3), designed to help Society researchers better understand what causes cancer and how to prevent it. Enrollment continues through December 2013.



2007

GLOBAL CANCER FACTS & FIGURES

The Society's first-ever *Global Cancer Facts & Figures* is published, providing current-year estimates on global cancer incidence and mortality.

2010

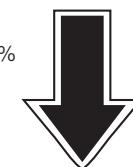
HEALTH CARE REFORM

Congress passes new legislation that will help those affected by cancer by emphasizing prevention, expanding access to coverage and improving quality of life. Passage of the historic legislation is a victory for the Society and ACS CAN, which had helped ensure cancer patients' voices were heard.

2012

DEATH RATES DOWN

The U.S. celebrates a 20% decline in cancer death rates between 1991 and 2009, which translates to 1.2 million lives saved from cancer.



2006

HPV VACCINE

The FDA approves a vaccine against strains of the human papilloma virus (HPV) that cause most cervical cancers. Robert Rose, PhD, contributed to a number of vaccines developed.



2009

TOBACCO PRODUCTS REGULATED

FDA oversight finally puts an end to Big Tobacco's marketing practices designed to addict children to its deadly products, a move long supported by the Society and ACS CAN.

2011

46 NOBEL PRIZES

Two more Society-funded researchers win the Nobel Prize, bringing the total to 46 winners who have received grant support from the Society, a number unmatched among other nonprofits.

2012

15 MILLIONTH CALLER



The Society helps the 15 millionth caller through its nationwide 24/7 help line.

2013

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MARKS 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS



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