



# FINDING CURES

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY  
RESEARCH PROGRAM



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## ABOUT THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY **RESEARCH PROGRAM**

Since the American Cancer Society research program was established in 1946, it has funded more than \$4 billion in cancer research. With an annual investment of approximately \$177.5 million, the Society is the largest private, not-for-profit source of cancer research funds in the United States.

### **Scientists supported by the Society have made great contributions. For example, our support has helped:**

- Establish the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer.
- Demonstrate the effectiveness of the Pap test in detecting cervical cancer at an early stage, decreasing deaths by more than 70 percent since 1969.
- Develop cancer-fighting drugs (5-FU) and biologic response modifiers (interferon).
- Dramatically increase the five-year survival rate for childhood leukemia to 84 percent.
- Develop monoclonal antibodies to treat lymphoma and breast cancer.
- Show the importance of estrogen receptors in breast cancer.
- Show the proficiency of the estrogen antagonist, tamoxifen, in preventing breast cancer recurrence and reducing incidence in high-risk women.
- Prove the safety and effectiveness of mammograms.
- Prove the efficacy of lumpectomy plus radiation compared with mastectomy for some breast cancer.
- Create hormonal therapy for prostate cancer.
- Develop the prostate-specific antigen (PSA) screening test.
- Define the role of new blood vessels (angiogenesis) in tumor growth.
- Define the structure of DNA, the genetic material.
- Discover cancer-causing genes and tumor suppressor genes.
- Discover breast and colon cancer susceptibility genes.

The success of the American Cancer Society research program is exemplified by the fact that 47 Society-funded researchers have gone on to win the Nobel Prize.