

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi, and Leader Reid:

On behalf of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), we wish to express our sincere appreciation for your leadership and your commitment to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). With more than 37,000 members from the United States and 107 other countries around the world, the AACR is dedicated to the prevention and cure of all cancers through research, education, communication, collaboration, and research funding.

**We are writing today to convey our strong support for the 21st Century Cures Act, and we urge you and your colleagues to pass this legislation before the end of the lame duck session. We are especially grateful for the bill's establishment of an NIH Innovation Account, through which \$1.8 billion in supplemental funding over seven years is designated for cancer research, and specifically for the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative.**

Extraordinary scientific opportunities exist today for making major advances against the more than 200 diseases we call cancer. As described in the [AACR Cancer Progress Report 2016](#), definitive advances continue to be made to effectively prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat many forms of cancer. However, continued rapid progress against cancer depends on robust, sustained, and predictable funding increases, and the 21st Century Cures Act would provide significant supplemental support for many of the initiatives and programs that have been recommended to advance the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative.

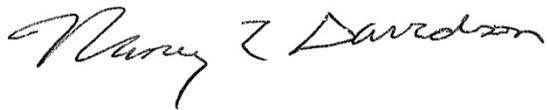
In fact, the National Cancer Moonshot Initiative has involved an incredible level of cooperation and coordination among cancer researchers, physician-scientists, patient advocates, government officials, and industry leaders, and these efforts have resulted in a robust and comprehensive list of innovative proposals and approaches for transforming

the ways we prevent and treat cancer. For example, the Cancer Moonshot Blue Ribbon Panel Report that was released in early September provides a strategic roadmap comprising 10 cutting-edge scientific recommendations for realizing the Vice President's goal of achieving a decade's worth of progress in the next five years.

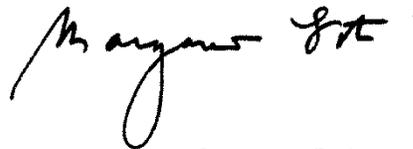
Therefore, by passing the 21st Century Cures Bill and providing the necessary funding to advance these innovative proposals, we will be making a major difference for cancer patients and their loved ones. Failure to seize upon the opportunities today to accelerate progress for the benefit of all cancer patients is simply not an option.

Thank you for your dedication to this vitally important cause, and for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



Nancy E. Davidson, MD  
President  
American Association for Cancer Research



Margaret Foti, PhD, MD (hc)  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Association for Cancer Research