Are we making any progress in the War on Cancer? It starts with knowing what's going on. And what have we learned about cancer? Inspire2Live Amsterdam, January 2020

Normal tissue

Tumor tissue









GTTTAC(

ATCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCCACATATCGT

ATATCGTCATCGTACTGACTGTC CTGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCAT CGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAAA TATCGTCATCGTACTGACTGTCT CCGATCGTACGACACATATC GACTGCATCGTACTGP CCACA GTACTGACTGTCTAG CTAAACA TCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAA



As cancer develops, CCAGCAT CTGCCCI cancer cells accumulate GTA CATACAT mutations in their genomes. ГCA ACTTTAC CACATATCGTCATCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAACACATC **GGACTGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCATCGTACTGACTGCAT** ACTTCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCCACATATC TGCATCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCCACATA ATCCATATCGTCATCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAACACAT

ATCGTCATCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAAC GTACGACACATATCGTCATCGTACTGCCCTA WILL LUGILUI **FGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCATCGTACTGAC** GTACGACACATATCGTCATCGTACTGCCCTA GTCTAAAC **IGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCATCGTACTGAC** ATCGTACTGACTGCACATATCGTCATACATA **JTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCCAC** TTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCCACTTTACC AU **FCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAAACACATCCC** TGACTGTCTA TCTAAACACATCCCAGCATC(**PATCGTCATCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAA** САТА IN COLUC GTACGACACATATCGTCATCGTACTGCCCTA **IGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCATCGTACTGAC**

TCGTACTGACTGCACATATCGTCATACATAG

ICGTCATCGTACTGACTGTCTAGTCTAAACACATCCCACACTGTCTAGTC

How even a subtle change in DNA structure can wreak havoc in a cell.



1982: One simple point mutation out of 2 billion bases of DNA

Artist's depiction of multi-step tumor progression in the colon



Why does it take <u>so long</u> for a colon tumor to develop?



As cells [and the tumors that they form] grow increasingly abnormal, they accumulate more and more <u>damaged genes</u>



Cancer formation in the gut

Figure 11.10 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)

Over the past 40 years, we have learned an <u>enormous amount</u> about the internal circuitry governing the behavior of human cells.





p53

As cancer develops, the mutations cause damage to multiple control circuits operating within individual cancer cells.



Figure 11.44 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)

As cells [and the tumors that they form] grow increasingly abnormal, they accumulate more and more <u>damaged genes</u>



One subcircuit:



Mutations in many of these genes lead to defective proteins and therefore malfunctioning components of this subcircuit



Same process also operates in the pancreas



Figure 11.12b The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)



Figure 11.12a The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)



Figure 11.10 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)

A Darwinian model of multistep tumor progression



(Each mutation confers and additional survival or proliferation advantage.)

Figure 11.12 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)







Figure 11.20c The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)



KM12SM



Case 10 (stage 10)



VEGFR



Carcinoma cell heterogenity is a hallmark of breast cancer Within a given tumor



How do the multiple steps required to form a human tumor map to the multiple distinct traits that tumors develop? In spite of this heterogeneity, are there some <u>common shared traits</u>??



How do the multiple steps required to form a human tumor map to the multiple distinct traits that tumors develop? In spite of this heterogeneity, are there some <u>common shared traits</u>??



Back to the internal circuitry governing the behavior of human cells.















Sub-molecular structure of the signaling molecule

Molecular structure of the signaling molecule

A major success story:

Survival of patients with <u>chronic myelogenous leukemia</u> Effects of Gleevec/imatinib treatment



But there are problems, as illustrated by this drug compound that shuts down the growth of certain lung and cancer cells.



Consequence : acquired drug resistance

Figure 16.33c The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)



Lung cancer regression following treatment with an "anti-receptor" drug followed by <u>eventual relapse</u>



Figure 16.33a The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)
The successes of Gleevec created a mirage that there would be a wave of similar successes:

Table 1. Estimated dru	ug costs for indicati	ons cited in the text*		OS = overall survival			
Drug (brand name)	Regimen	Doset	Amount needed†,‡	Cost per milligram or cost per tablet	Total cost‡	Increase in OS‡	
Cetuximab (Erbitux)	Loading: 400 mg/ m²; maintain: 250 mg/m²/wk	Loading: 600 mg; maintain: 375 mg	6975 mg	\$11.52/mg	\$80352	1.2 mo (1)	
Bevacizumab (Avastin)	10 mg/kg every 14 d	600 mg every 14 d	13200 mg	\$6.88/mg	\$90816	1.5 mo§ (13)	
Erlotinib (Tarceva)	150 mg daily	150 mg/d; 1 tablet per dav	112 tablets	\$140.64 per tablet	\$15752	10 d (14)	
Sorafenib (Nexavar)	400 mg twice a day	800 mg/d; 4 tablets per day	692 tablets	\$49.67 per tablet	\$34373	2.7 mo (15)	

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1.0

0.8

0.6 -

0.4

0.2 -

0 0

Proportion surviving

Bacl.ground: How much cancer is there (incidence)? Really?







post-chemotherapy longest dimension = 16 mm

Figure 16.2 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

Breast Cancer

About 1 in 8 U.S. women (about 12%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. In 2017, an estimated **252,710 new cases** of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with **63,410 new cases** of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer.

For women in the U.S., breast cancer death rates are higher than those for any other cancer, besides lung cancer.

About 40,610 women in the U.S. are expected to die in 2017 from breast cancer

incidence





Figure 16.4 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

The overall <u>breast cancer death</u> rate has decreased consistently since 1989, attributed both to improvements in early detection (through screening as well as increased awareness of symptoms) and treatment for a total decline of 40% through 2017. As a result of this decline, 375,900 breast cancer deaths have been averted in U.S. women through 2017.

Mortality: total decline of 40%



The overall <u>breast cancer death</u> rate has decreased consistently since 1989, attributed both to improvements in early detection (through screening as well as increased awareness of symptoms) and treatment for a total decline of 40% through 2017. As a result of this decline, 375,900 breast cancer deaths have been averted in U.S. women through 2017.

Mortality: total decline of 40%











How long does it take to develop a cancer? A ~30 year lag between the cause and the effect



that most cancers arise late in life

<u>Only solution</u>: Reduce incidence:

In the US, tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths; this equaled an estimated 443,000 premature deaths each year between 2000 and 2004.6.7 In addition, an estimated 8.6 million people suffer from chronic conditions related to smoking, such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and cardiovascular diseases.⁸

<u>Only solution</u>: Reduce incidence:

Stunning differences in lung cancer mortality



Fig. 2. Lung cancer mortality rates, by education level, sex, and race, for persons aged 25–64 years in the United States, 2001. Error bars correspond to 95% confidence intervals.



KEY STATE-SPECIFIC TOBACCO-RELATED DATA & RANKINGS

State	Adult Smoking Rate	Adult Smoking Rank (1=low)	Pregnant Smoking Rate∉	Youth Smoking Rate	New Youth Smokers Per Year	Annual Adult Smoking Deaths (approx.)	Kids Now Alive Who Will Become Smokers	Kids Now Alive Who Will Die From Smoking	Smoking Caused Health Costs (millions)	Cigarette Tax (per pack)	Cigarette Tax Rank (1 = high)	FY 2019 Funding for State TC Programs (millions)	Tobacco Prevention Spending % of CDC Target
All States	14.0%		7.2%	5.8%	98,000	480,000	17+ mill.	5.6 mill.	\$170 bill.	\$1.81	///	\$655.0	19.8%
Alabama	19.2%	41st	10.1%	14.0%	1,800	8,600	336,200	108,000	\$1.88 bill.	\$0.675	41st	\$2.1	3.7%
Alaska	19.1%	39th	11.5%	10.9%	200	600	43,600	14,000	\$438	\$2.00	17th	\$9.1	89.4%
Arizona	14.0%	12th	4.8%	7.1%	2,000	8,300	359,800	115,000	\$2.38 bill.	\$2.00	17th	\$17.3	26.9%
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Kansas	17.3%	31st	10.2%	7.2%	1,000	4,400	191,200	61,000	\$1.12 bill.	\$1.29	33rd	\$0.8	3.0%
Kentucky	23.4%	50th	18.4%	14.3%	2,000	8,900	371,700	119,000	\$1.92 bill.	\$1.10	36th	\$3.8	6.7%
Louisiana	20.5%	44th	6.8%	12.3%	1,700	7,200	307,400	98,000	\$1.89 bill.	\$1.08	37th	\$5.4	9.0%
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Texas	14.4%	13th	3.3%	11.3%	8,700	28,000	1,557,800	498,000	\$8.85 bill.	\$1.41	29th	\$4.2	1.6%
Utah	9.0%	1st	3.0%	3.8%	600	1,300	120,800	39,000	\$542	\$1.70	25th	\$7.0	36.3%
Vermont	13.7%	10th	15.5%	9.3%	100	1,000	31,500	10,000	\$348	\$3.08	7th	\$3.8	45.2%
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Reducing incidence: Other <u>avoidable causes</u> Cancer mortality in obese vs. lean people: Highest quartile of body mass index vs. lowest quartile

Lowest quartile: BMI of 24.9 and below; highest quartile: BMI no. is given



Figure 9.41a The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

More generally: Cancer is a disease of aging The risk of developing cancer is different at different ages





How big is the actual problem?



Figure 16.43b The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

How big is the actual problem?



Figure 16.43a The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

How big is the actual problem?







Figure 16.10b The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)

A major success story:

Survival of patients with <u>chronic myelogenous leukemia</u> Effects of Gleevec/imatinib treatment



But there are problems, as illustrated by this drug compound that shuts down the growth of certain lung and cancer cells.



Consequence : acquired drug resistance

Figure 16.33c The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)

- About 5,980 new cases will be diagnosed with CML (3,130 in men and 2,850 in women).
- About 810 people will die of CML (550 men and 260 women).



Figure 16.29 *The Biology of Cancer* (© Garland Science 2007)

The successes of Gleevec created a mirage that there would be a wave of similar successes:

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1.0

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0.4

0.2 -

0 0

Proportion surviving

Checkpoint blockade Immunotherapy: Much hope!!!!

• Blocking these interactions using anti-CTLA4 or anti-PD1/PDL1 unleashes the "brakes" on the immune system, allowing tumor cell killing





U.S. population 65 and older (millions)



Death rates from colorectal cancer have been decreasing but only slowly.



If we consider all three of these trends together.....







Figure 16.45d The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2007)

It's unclear how we are going to pay for all this.



We will soon not be able to treat all those diagnosed with cancer because of economic factors.

It's unclear how we are going to pay for all this.



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	Es	timated New Case	E	Estimated Deaths		
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
All Stes	1,665,540	855,220	810,320	585,720	310,010	275,710
Esophaqus	18.170	14.660	3.510	15.450	12.450	3.000
Colon [†]	96,830	48,450	48,380	50,310	26,270	24,040
Lung & bronchus	224,210	116,000	108,210	159,260	86,930	72,330
Breast	235,030	2,360	232,670	40,430	430	40,000
Prostate	233,000	233,000		29,480	29,480	
Pancreas	46,420	23,530	22,890	39,590	20,170	19,420

Estimated Number* of New Cancer Cases and Deaths by Sex, US, 2014

What's the ratio of no. of deaths annually per no. of diagnosed new cases? Pancreas 85% Esophagus 85% Colon 52% A major success!! Lung & bronchus 87%

A major success!!

	Es	timated New Case	Estimated Deaths			
	Both Sexes	Male	Female	Both Sexes	Male	Female
All Stes	1,665,540	855,220	810,320	585,720	310,010	275,710
Esophagus	18.170	14.660	3.510	15.450	12.450	3.000
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Estimated Number* of New Cancer Cases and Deaths by Sex, US, 2014

What's the ratio of no. of deaths annually per no. of diagnosed new cases?

Prostate	13%	Wow! We seem to be making great progress!
Breast	17%	
Lung & bronchus	87%	
Colon	52%	
Esophagus	85%	
Pancreas	85%	
A major problem at present: **Overdiagnosis** These days we can find growths in the breast that would previously have eluded detection.





pre-chemotherapy longest dimension = 47 mm post-chemotherapy longest dimension = 16 mm

Incidence of breast cancer is ~ 6 times higher than mortality.



Breast Cancer

About 1 in 8 U.S. women (about 12%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. In 2017, an estimated **252,710 new cases** of invasive breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed in women in the U.S., along with **63,410 new cases** of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer.

For women in the U.S., breast cancer death rates are higher than those for any other cancer, besides lung cancer.

About 40,610 women in the U.S. were expected to die in 2017 from breast cancer

incidence



How can we deal with this? Dutch solution: don't treat all patients aggressively



Incidence of prostate cancer is <u>many times higher</u> than mortality.



% of men upon autopsy

Overdiagnosis



~3% of men die from prostate cancer





Figure 16.44a The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)



The melanoma circus

Figure 16.44 The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

Other confounding statements: In this case from the Am. Cancer Society

How Many People Alive Today Have Ever Had Cancer?

Approximately 13.7 million Americans with a history of cancer were alive on January 1, 2012. Some of these individuals were cancer free, while others still had evidence of cancer and may have been undergoing treatment.

What Percentage of People Survive Cancer?

The 5-year relative survival rate for all cancers diagnosed between 2003 and 2009 is 68%, up from 49% in 1975-1977 (see page 17). The improvement in survival reflects both progress in diagnosing certain cancers at an earlier stage and improvements in treatment. Survival statistics vary greatly by cancer

Where does all this leave us?!

1. The incidence of many cancers is a cultural artifact.

2. Only a portion of these will ever be life-threatening.

3. We will soon not be able to treat all those diagnosed with cancer because of economic factors.

4. <u>The only solution to these trends will be to</u> <u>reduce incidence</u> <u>Only solution</u>: Reduce incidence:

In the US, tobacco use is responsible for nearly 1 in 5 deaths; this equaled an estimated 443,000 premature deaths each year between 2000 and 2004.6.7 In addition, an estimated 8.6 million people suffer from chronic conditions related to smoking, such as chronic bronchitis, emphysema, and cardiovascular diseases.⁸

<u>Only solution</u>: Reduce incidence:

Stunning differences in lung cancer mortality



Fig. 2. Lung cancer mortality rates, by education level, sex, and race, for persons aged 25–64 years in the United States, 2001. Error bars correspond to 95% confidence intervals.



KEY STATE-SPECIFIC TOBACCO-RELATED DATA & RANKINGS

State	Adult Smoking Rate	Adult Smoking Rank (1=low)	Pregnant Smoking Rate∉	Youth Smoking Rate	New Youth Smokers Per Year	Annual Adult Smoking Deaths (approx.)	Kids Now Alive Who Will Become Smokers	Kids Now Alive Who Will Die From Smoking	Smoking Caused Health Costs (millions)	Cigarette Tax (per pack)	Cigarette Tax Rank (1 = high)	FY 2019 Funding for State TC Programs (millions)	Tobacco Prevention Spending % of CDC Target
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State	Ac Smc Ra	dult oking ate		
All States	14	.0%		
Kentucky		23.4	% 50th	
I exas		 14.4	″ %∣ 13th	
Utah		9.0%	6 1st	 Let's hear it for the <u>Home Team</u> !
Vermont		13 7	% 10th	

Reducing incidence: Other <u>avoidable causes</u> Cancer mortality in obese vs. lean people: Highest quartile of body mass index vs. lowest quartile

Lowest quartile: BMI of 24.9 and below; highest quartile: BMI no. is given



Figure 9.41a The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

Other avoidable causes:

Cancer mortality in obese vs. lean people:

Highest quartile of body mass index vs. lowest quartile

Lowest quartile: BMI of 24.9 and below; highest quartile: BMI no. is given



Reducing incidence: avoidable risk factors

Table 2.7 Known or suspected causes of human cancers

Environmental and lifestyle factors known or suspected to be etiologic for human cancers in the United States ^a							
Туре	% of total cases ^b						
Cancers due to occupational exposures	1–2						
Lifestyle cancers							
Tobacco-related (sites: e.g., lung, bladder, kidney)	34						
Diet (low in vegetables, high in nitrates, salt) (sites: e.g., stomach, esophagus)	5						
Diet (high fat, low fiber, broiled/fried foods) (sites: e.g., bowel, pancreas, prostate, breast)	37						
Tobacco plus alcohol (sites: mouth, throat)	2						

^aAdapted from American Cancer Society. Cancer Facts & Figures 1990. Atlanta: American Cancer Society, Inc.

^bA large number of cancers are thought to be provoked by a diet high in calories (see Sidebar 9.10) acting in combination with many of these lifestyl factors.

^cAdapted from S. Wilson, L. Jones, C. Coussens and K. Hanna, eds., Cancer and the Environment: Gene–Environment Interaction. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2002.

^dER+, estrogen receptor–positive.

^eE + P, therapy containing both estrogen and progesterone.

Table 2.7 (part 1 of 2) The Biology of Cancer (© Garland Science 2014)

Through the miracle of PhotoShop!!



Native born Americans





Estimated Humber of Her	ourroor ouco	o and boatho	, oo, 201	•		
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Pancreas	46,420	23,530	22,890	39,590	20,170	19,420
What's the ratio of	of no. of de	eaths per r	no. of diagn	osed new c	ases?	
Pancreas	85%					
Esophagus	85%					
Colon	52%					
Lung & bronchus	87%					

Estimated Number* of New Cancer Cases and Deaths by Sex, US, 2014

Five-year Relative Survival Rates* (%) by Stage at Diagnosis, 2003-2009

	All Stages	Local	Regional	Distant
Breast (female)	89	99	84	24
Colon & rectum	65	90	70	13
Esophagus	17	39	21	4
Death rates from disseminated	72	92	64	12
tumors remain high	61	76	43	35
Liver [‡]	16	29	10	3
Lung & bronchus	17	54	26	4
Melanoma of the skin	91	98	62	16
Oral cavity & pharynx	62	83	59	36
Ovary	44	92	72	27
Pancreas	6	24	9	2
Prostate	99	100	100	28
Stomach	28	63	28	4
Testis	95	99	96	74
Thyroid	98	100	97	55
Urinary bladders	78	70	33	5
Uterine cervix	68	91	57	16
Uterine corpus	82	95	68	17









