



Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology

Advocacy • Education • Research

MSHO Position Statement Regarding Proposed NCI and NIH Funding Cuts

The Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology is a physician organization founded in 1985. Today, we represent 94% of the state's medical oncologists and hematologists. Our core mission is to promote equitable and high-quality care for patients with cancer and blood disorders through advocacy, education, and research.

We remain committed to ensuring that policies and funding decisions support the needs of both providers and the patients they serve. As such, the Michigan Society of Hematology and Oncology is greatly concerned about the current administration's recent executive orders aimed at the proposed funding freeze and cuts to medical research. Over the past 40 years, several significant advances in cancer treatment have arisen from research funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) which has led to an estimated 14 million life-years saved for patients with cancer in the United States, as published by Unger et al (*J Clin Oncol*, 2023). Furthermore, these impressive results were attained in an incredibly cost-effective manner, with each life-year costing taxpayers only \$326. We also would like to remind policymakers of the significant financial impact these research dollars contribute to the US economy. According to 2023 data, every \$1 of NIH funding generated approximately \$2.46 of economic activity. Specific to Michigan, a report by the [Institute for Research on Innovation and Science showed that](#) federal research dollars awarded to the three major institutions, Michigan State University, Wayne State University, and the University of Michigan, led to job creation and employment of 24,900 people in 2023.

Following President Nixon's signing of the National Cancer Act in 1971, survival of all cancers subsequently improved by almost 35%, and there are now over 18 million Americans who are cancer survivors. Such impressive advancements are a direct result of years of cancer research conducted by physicians and scientists in the United States through NIH funding. In communities and cancer centers across the country, we are continually changing standards of care and introducing more options for patients to treat their cancers as a direct result of this research. This work can only be done through continued and unrelenting efforts, and we are grateful for NIH and National Cancer Institute (NCI) funding that has made this lifesaving work possible. NIH-funded research has positioned the U.S. at the forefront of scientific discovery, which is fostering economic growth, technological advancement, and global competitiveness. These announced cuts to the NIH risk ceding U.S. leadership to other nations that are continuing to expand their investments in biomedical research. Additionally, the research funding policies of this administration are alarming many in the scientific community who fear that the current political climate is weakening the resolve of talented young researchers to pursue careers in academic science. In our opinion these events would further undermine our nation's enduring position as the world leader in medical research stifling innovation for the entire field.

We strongly urge members of Congress to reaffirm their commitment to maintain robust and predictable funding for the National Institute of Health (NIH) and the broader scientific enterprise, which will ensure that The United States maintains its leadership position in biomedical research and innovation and remains at the vanguard of discovery and scientific advances.