

HELPING SAVE LIVES FROM CANCER



1913
The American Cancer Society is founded. Fifteen physicians and businessmen in New York City, who were determined to raise awareness about cancer, form the American Society for the Control of Cancer, later renamed the American Cancer Society.



1936
Women make noise to help save lives. A group of passionate women form the Women's Field Army – an organization of women who took to the streets to educate people about cancer and raise money to help save lives. Their contributions were monumental in building the American Cancer Society and the cancer movement.



1946
The American Cancer Society launches our groundbreaking research program. Philanthropist Mary Lasker and her colleagues revolutionize the organization's mission and fundraising efforts, helping to raise more than \$4 million – \$1 million of which was used to establish the program.

1948
The American Cancer Society pushes for wide adoption of the Pap test. Cervical cancer death rates have declined by more than 70 percent, largely due to widespread uptake of the Pap test in the latter half of the 20th century.

The first issue of *Cancer*, a peer-reviewed oncology journal, is published. Visit [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/1097-0142\(194805\)1:1%3C%3E1.0.CO;2-G/issuetoc](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/1097-0142(194805)1:1%3C%3E1.0.CO;2-G/issuetoc) to see the first issue.

1950
CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians begins publication. Visit <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/caac.v1:1/issuetoc> to see the first issue.



1952
Cancer Facts & Figures begins publication. This is the American Cancer Society's concise annual summary of population-based cancer statistics.

The American Cancer Society begins prospective epidemiological studies with the Hammond-Horn study, which provides the first US prospective evidence for an association between cigarette smoking and death from lung cancer in men. This study lays the foundation for our Cancer Prevention Studies and Epidemiology Research program. Research based on information collected from nearly 2.7 million US men and women enrolled in the Cancer Prevention Studies over 60 years will provide unique, lifesaving contributions to the global scientific community.

1956
The first complete cure of a human solid tumor by chemotherapy is achieved by former American Cancer Society grantee Min Chiu Li, MD, and colleague Roy Hertz, MD.

1958
The American Cancer Society helps fund the foundational research, development, and clinical trials for the chemotherapy drug 5-FU. We provided funding that helped Charles Heidelberger, PhD, conduct the foundational research, development, and clinical trials for 5-FU. The drug has been the main chemotherapeutic treatment for colorectal cancer patients since receiving FDA approval in 1962 – and has helped significantly improve survival for those patients.¹

¹ The largest improvement in 5-year survival has been for regional-stage disease, from 55 percent to 73 percent for colon cancer and from 45 percent to 69 percent for rectal cancer. This is likely due to the significant progress in treatment for these patients, namely 5-fluorouracil-based chemotherapy following surgery, which was recommended by a National Institutes of Health expert panel in 1990 for stage III cancers. <http://www.cancer.org/acs/groups/content/documents/document/acspc-042280.pdf>.



1964
The movement to stop smoking begins. American Cancer Society epidemiological studies provide some of the strongest evidence linking smoking with death from lung cancer, leading to the landmark Surgeon General's Report. Additional smoking prevention work helps lead to smoking rates being reduced by over half by 2018, and a reduction in the death rate from lung cancer.

1969
The American Cancer Society helps support people facing breast cancer by adopting the Reach To Recovery® program, which breast cancer survivor Terese Lasser began in 1952. Through the program, breast cancer patients are connected with trained volunteers to receive peer-to-peer support on everything from practical and emotional issues to helping them cope with their disease, treatment, and long-term survivorship issues.



1970
The first American Cancer Society Hope Lodge® facility opens in Charleston, South Carolina. Volunteer Margot Freudenberg helps open a free home away from home for cancer patients and their caregivers who must travel far from home for treatment.

1971
The National Cancer Act passes, galvanizing the "War on Cancer." The American Cancer Society plays a leading role in the passage of this landmark act, which led to the establishment of cancer centers across the country. Federal cancer research funding significantly increased, with the National Cancer Institute budget rising from \$233 million in 1971 to \$5.94 billion in 2018.



1973
Mammography is shown to be the best tool to find breast cancer early. The American Cancer Society invests in a mammography study that confirms it is the best tool for the early detection of breast cancer.

1976
The first Great American Smokeout® event is held. The American Cancer Society hosts an event in California to help nearly 1 million smokers quit for the day. The following year, we take the event nationwide, and it continues to challenge people to stop using tobacco and provide them support to quit.

1979
Cancer Prevention Study I (CPS I) is first epidemiological study to show a relationship between obesity and shortened overall survival. Subsequent studies from CPS-II will help to establish the link between obesity and death from breast, colorectal, and other cancers.



1983
Following the success of American Cancer volunteer drivers in central Massachusetts providing transportation to treatment, we take the Road To Recovery® program nationwide. The program is at the heart of our work of removing transportation barriers to quality health care by providing cancer patients much-needed rides to treatment through volunteer drivers, partners, or community organizations.

1994
Anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK), an enzyme that plays a significant role in lymphoma, is discovered by American Cancer Society grantee Stephan W. Morris, MD.



1995
We launch the Study of Cancer Survivors (SCS), a longitudinal study of more than 5,000 cancer survivors nationwide to assess survivors' health behaviors and physical/emotional functioning – allowing a comparison of changes over time and an assessment of the long-term impact of cancer. Study findings will go on to add to our understanding of how people adjust to life after cancer and have informed our interventions for survivors.



The American Cancer Society introduces the “tlc” Tender Loving Care® program to offer hair loss and mastectomy products for women coping with cancer. Products, which can be ordered from the privacy of their own home, include affordable wigs, hairpieces, hats, turbans, and breast forms, as well as mastectomy bras, camisoles, and swimwear.

1997
The American Cancer Society launches the first 24/7 cancer information call center. Today, our caring, trained staff provide free information, answers, and support to the more than 1 million people who call our cancer helpline each year. *(1997 continued above)*



Cancer Cytopathology, a peer-reviewed journal for cytopathologists makes its debut, first in *Cancer*, then later as its own publication.

The American Cancer Society creates a book publishing program. The first major consumer book, *Informed Decisions*, is published.

2000
The American Cancer Society starts providing a research-proven, telephone-based intervention to help tobacco users quit smoking, transitioning in 2009 to the Quit For Life® Program, managed and operated by Optum.

2001
The first use of molecularly targeted therapy to treat cancer is successful. Former American Cancer Society grantee Brian Druker, MD, reports stunning success in treating chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) with a molecularly targeted drug (Gleevec) launching a new era of molecularly targeted treatments

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action NetworkSM (ACS CAN), our nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy affiliate, is founded.



2002
The first Celebration On The Hill® event shows the importance of advocacy in the mission to end cancer.

Delaware is the first state to enact a comprehensive smoke-free law prohibiting smoking in bars, restaurants, and workplaces.

2003
American Cancer Society research confirms the link between obesity and many types of cancer. Our researchers confirm that being overweight or obese contributes to at least 10 types of cancer.

The American Cancer Society introduces the Hotel Partners Program to complement our Hope Lodge® program. In communities without a Hope Lodge facility, we partner with local hotels to provide free or discounted lodging for patients who must travel for treatment.

2005
The Health Insurance Assistance Service is launched.

The Patient Navigator program is launched. The program provides cancer patients and caregivers referrals to needed resources that help remove barriers to care from diagnosis through treatment.

ACS CAN helps the Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act become law, which helps expand access to cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment in medically underserved communities.



2006
ACS CAN and the Relay For Life® program team up for the second, larger Celebration On The Hill event, where 10,000 advocates urge Congress to make cancer a national priority.

ACS CAN helps defeat legislation that would have eliminated guaranteed coverage for mammograms and other cancer screenings.



2007
The American Cancer Society and ACS CAN launch the Access to Care initiative; and the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program is reauthorized at a higher funding level.

2008
The ACS CAN Fight Back Express, the largest grassroots mobilization campaign ever waged on cancer issues, embarks on a six-month journey across the continental United States and gathers more than 100,000 signatures to support access to quality health care for all Americans.

2009
After a decade-long campaign by ACS CAN and others, The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act grants the Food and Drug Administration power to regulate the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of tobacco products; and the federal cigarette tax is raised for the first time since 1997, bringing the total federal tax to \$1.01.



2010
The historic Affordable Care Act is enacted. ACS CAN supports key provisions of the law, which improve access to quality, affordable health care for cancer patients, survivors, and their families.

2012
The US celebrates a 20 percent decline in cancer death rates. This translates to 1.3 million lives saved from cancer between 1991 and 2010.



2013
American Cancer Society-funded researcher James Rothman, PhD, wins the Nobel Prize. This brings the total number of Nobel Prize winners who received American Cancer Society funding prior to winning the award to 47.



2015
ACS CAN launches the One Degree campaign, a movement to increase cancer research funding. The campaign attracts extensive media coverage and sets off an expanding network that generates nearly 150,000 signed petitions and millions of social media impressions. In March 2018, Congress passes the largest increase for research funding in 15 years in the fiscal year 2018 spending bill. Cancer research at the NCI has increased by more than \$1 billion since 2015. The funding boost helps ACS CAN achieve its three-year One Degree campaign goal of increasing federal funding for medical research at the National Institutes of Health by \$6 billion, including \$1 billion for cancer-specific research at the NCI.



2016
The US celebrates a 27 percent decline in cancer death rates. This translates to more than 2.6 million lives saved from cancer between 1991 and 2016.



2017
An ACS study finds rates of colorectal cancer diagnoses are increasing among younger people (under age 50), with those born in 1990 having double the risk of colon cancer compared to what those born in 1950 had at the same age. This finding helps inform a 2018 change to our colorectal screening guidelines that lowered the recommended starting age to 45 for people at average risk.



2018
Nearly 60 percent of the US population is covered by smoke-free laws, including 25 states that require 100 percent smoke-free workplaces, in large part because of ACS CAN's advocacy efforts.

Thanks to the relentless work of ACS CAN staff and volunteers, the average state cigarette tax is \$1.79 per pack, the highest in history.

More than 500,000 people gain access to affordable, quality health care when four states – Virginia, Idaho, Nebraska, and Utah – increase access to Medicaid.



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