



University of New Mexico Cancer Center

THE OFFICIAL CANCER CENTER OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
A NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE DESIGNATED CANCER CENTER

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May 4, 2012

Linda K. Weiss, PhD
Director, Office of Cancer Centers
National Cancer Institute
Suite 700, 6116 Executive Boulevard
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

RE: Comments on Proposed Modification of the NCI P30 CCSG Guidelines

Dear Dr. Weiss,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments regarding the proposed revisions to the NCI P30 CCSG guidelines and funding thresholds. We, the undersigned group of NCI Cancer Center Directors, would like to express our strong support for the statements submitted for your consideration by Dr. Kevin Cullen, Director of the University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center (dated May 1, 2012; enclosed herein). Dr. Cullen articulately outlines how the proposal to limit the CCSG budgets of smaller NCI Centers to a 10% increase, or an annual budget of \$1.5 million for the smallest Centers, only serves to perpetuate the historic and significant funding inequities in the NCI Cancer Centers Program. This proposal disproportionately harms the smaller NCI Centers, many of which conduct research that includes underserved populations and which contribute to the nation's cancer research mission with unique scientific and clinical programs.

When the NIH and NCI budgets were expanding and federal funds were more readily available, several of the larger and well-established NCI Cancer Centers were able to be fully funded at 15% of their total NCI funding base. However, as federal budgets have steadily declined, there have been insufficient funds to fully fund other NCI Cancer Centers at similar proportionate levels, even though many grew considerably and achieved outstanding scores on peer review. In these times of severe fiscal constraints, it is only fair that the entire NCI Cancer Centers program should have to "shoulder the burden." More fair allocation models should be derived that do not disproportionately harm or limit the growth and stability of the smaller NCI Centers. It is time to re-consider a budgetary cap for a CCSG of \$8-10 million annually per Center. Such a cap would lead to a relatively modest or minimal reduction in the overall budgets of larger NCI Centers, while freeing up significant funds for reallocation to other Centers in the program on competitive review.

We would like to request a meeting or an opportunity to discuss these issues further. Again, thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

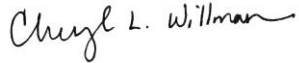
El Oso de Salud, or "the healing bear," is a Native American symbol of responsibility, leadership, teaching and healing. The University of New Mexico Cancer Center has chosen El Oso de Salud as our Seal because we are committed to serving those whose lives have been touched by cancer with strength, courage, grace and great ability.

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT CALL **505-272-4946** TO MAKE A DONATION CALL **505-272-4443** VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT **CANCER.UNM.EDU**

NCI·CC

A Cancer Center Designated by the National Cancer Institute

Yours Sincerely,



Cheryl L. Willman, MD
The Maurice and Marguerite Liberman Distinguished Chair in Cancer Research
Professor of Pathology and Medicine, UNM health Sciences Center
Director and CEO, UNM Cancer Center

On Behalf of:

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