



Lung cancer is an urgent health crisis in America, killing more people than any other cancer. The American Lung Association is dedicated to reducing lung cancer's terrible toll. We launched LUNG FORCE to make lung cancer a national priority. We've significantly increased our lung cancer research funding and are continually developing and improving support resources for lung cancer patients and their caregivers.

The LUNG FORCE initiative will:

1. Invest \$10 million in lung cancer research and \$5 million in increasing public health promotion, including awareness of early detection tools such as CT screening.
2. Provide patients with information about clinical trials and biomarker testing.
3. Advocate for increasing federal funding for lung cancer research from \$213 million today to \$300 million by 2020.

Some of the LUNG FORCE activities planned around the country for 2015 include:

- LUNG FORCE Expos, offering education and support for lung disease patients, caregivers and healthcare providers.
- Turquoise Takeover the second week in May for National Women's Lung Health Week, where landmarks are illuminated in turquoise to bring attention to this campaign to fight lung cancer.
- LUNG FORCE Walks will raise funds and awareness, encouraging participants to celebrate the collective power of our breath. The more money raised, the more we can help improve the quality of life for people living with lung cancer and other lung diseases, discover more successful treatments – and save lives.

Momentum is growing and there are many ways for women, men and children to join the FORCE and stand together for a life free of lung disease.

Visit LUNGFORCE.org to learn more.

Smoking Asthmatics Pilot Study (SAPS)

Co-Funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

About 20% of people with asthma smoke, yet smokers are consistently excluded from therapeutic trials for asthma. As a result current asthma treatment guidelines may not be appropriate for smokers. There is evidence that suggests that inhaled corticosteroids, the mainstay for treating persistent asthma, are less effective in smokers. The SAPS trial is designed to test the feasibility of a large scale clinical trial looking at the four main therapeutic options for asthmatic patients who still smoke and are not well controlled on standard asthma therapy. Smoking cessation remains the primary strategy for treating these patients but this study represents an important step toward improving care for that significant population of individuals with asthma for whom smoking cessation remains a struggle.

About American Lung Association

Our Mission:

To save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

Our Strategic Imperatives:

- Defeat lung cancer.
- Improve the air we breathe so it will not cause or worsen lung disease.
- Reduce the burden of lung disease on individuals and their families.
- Eliminate tobacco use and tobacco-related diseases.



1-800-LUNGUSA • Lung.org

The American Lung Association's National Office is located at 55 W. Wacker Drive, Suite 1150, Chicago, IL 60601



PRESIDENT'S RESEARCH REPORT



The American Lung Association's mission to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease is sustained by the important lung disease research projects we fund each year. This research, made possible through your enduring and generous support, is the key to our lifesaving mission. Through research, we strive to find better methods of detection, treatment and ultimately cures to a host of lung diseases, including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer.

We have recently released our annual Research Awards Nationwide 2014-2015 report that highlights research being supported by the Lung Association through our Awards and Grants Program and Asthma Clinical Research Centers (ACRC). This year, the American Lung Association will spend \$9 million in lung disease research, supporting 85 novel and innovative research projects. The carefully chosen research projects will focus on a wide range of complex issues to help combat and reduce the suffering and burden of lung disease on patients and their loved ones.

The Awards and Grants Program primarily supports trainees and junior investigators to ensure long-term commitments to lung disease research and to maintain a strong community of scientists dedicated to lung disease. In connection with our LUNG FORCE campaign, which seeks to raise awareness of the risks for lung cancer, the Lung Association will be supporting \$1.6 million in lung cancer research through our Awards and Grant Program. This represents a 50 percent increase in the amount of research expenditures the Association is directing to the leading cause of cancer death in the United States.



Lung Disease Research: The Key to Saving Lives

- During 2014, close to 160,000 deaths from lung cancer were reported, representing more than 27% of all cancer deaths.
- Asthma affects more than 6.8 million children under 18, and more than half of those have experienced an asthma attack during the previous year.
- COPD (chronic bronchitis and emphysema) is the third leading cause of death in America, just behind heart disease and cancer.
- Each year, an estimated 226,000 people are hospitalized due to influenza.
- About half of people in the U.S. live in areas with unhealthy levels of air pollution.
- Over 42 million adults in the U.S. still smoke.
- There are 480,000 tobacco-related deaths in America each year, including those related to secondhand smoke.

The Lung Association is also very pleased to announce the expansion of our Asthma Clinical Research Centers (ACRC) to include COPD research. The American Lung Association Asthma Clinical Research Centers (ACRC) Network is the nation's largest not-for-profit network of clinical research centers dedicated to improving patient care for asthma and now COPD. Our first venture in COPD will be to validate the Anxiety Inventory for Respiratory Disease (AIR) questionnaire in patients with COPD. This is extremely important as anxiety is often experienced in conjunction with COPD.



HAROLD WIMMER

We know that scientific research is the front-line weapon in eliminating the terrible toll of lung disease on our families and loved ones. Thanks to your financial support, we are able to once again fund medical research seeking breakthroughs to help Americans live longer, healthier lives.

Our vision is a world free of lung disease, and with your help, we're getting closer to making that a reality.

Sincerely,

Harold Wimmer

Harold P. Wimmer
National President & CEO



FUNDING THE RESEARCHERS

Who Have Joined The Fight Against Lung Disease



KRISTINA CROTHERS, MD
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington

Lung Cancer Discovery Award

Improving How We Implement Lung Cancer Screening in Diverse Patient Populations

The National Lung Screening Trial demonstrated that lung cancer screening with chest computed tomography (CT) decreases lung cancer death in high-risk smokers. Implementing this screening is challenging, particularly in groups that were under-represented in prior trials, such as low-income and minority populations. The burden of smoking and lung cancer are disproportionately high in these groups, but rates of use and acceptance of lung cancer screening may be low. We will study the best ways to communicate with patients about the benefits and risks of lung cancer screening as well as, how to best educate patients on lung cancer screening results and subsequent follow-up.

Funded in Partnership with the American Lung Association of the Mountain Pacific



PETER KAISER, PhD
University of California, Irvine

American Lung Association, Free to Breathe, and Uniting Against Lung Cancer Impact Award

Developing Drugs to Reactivate Tumor Killing Ability of p53

One of the most commonly mutated genes in cancer and one of the most difficult proteins to target therapeutically is p53. The malfunction of p53 is crucial for the origin and spread of lung cancer. We aim to develop new cancer drugs targeting p53 to help patients suffering from this terrible disease. Drugs able to reactivate the tumor-killing ability of p53 will be a significant new treatment option for thousands of lung cancer patients and will also improve treatment options for patients fighting other types of cancers.



JOHNATHAN WHETSTONE, PhD
Massachusetts General Hospital,
Boston, MA

Lung Cancer Discovery Award

Enzyme Could Help Predict Effectiveness of Lung Cancer Chemotherapy

Abnormal gene expression and mutations contribute to lung cancer risk and drug resistance. The enzyme KDM4A, which is over-produced in lung cancer, leads to genetic changes which have been linked to drug resistance. The overproduction of KDM4A in cancer cells results in reduced response to drug treatment and radiation. We will study how KDM4A works in lung cancer cells, and whether levels of the enzyme are an important predictor of the effectiveness of chemotherapy against lung cancer.

Funded by the American Lung Association of the Northeast



American Lung Association Legacy Society member, Myra Fercy, has made a commitment to improving lung health for future generations through her estate gift to the Lung Association. Her interest in the work of the Lung Association and her support go back to Myra's childhood when she was diagnosed with asthma.



MYRA FERCY

"My first contact with the American Lung Association was as a kid in school. We actually had a picture of Emily Bissell up on the wall and many of the kids sold Christmas Seals for a penny apiece," said Myra. "My folks and I lived on a farm and didn't have a lot of money, but we always bought Christmas seals because I had asthma."

In the 1950s, lung disease again touched Myra's life. She married at 22 years old and at the age of 24, contracted tuberculosis. As a result, she was confined to the Hickory Grove Sanatorium, a county facility for tuberculosis patients, for the better part of three years. While Myra says that time was very difficult for her and her new husband, she was grateful that the sanatorium received some financial assistance from the American Lung Association.

Over the years, Myra donated to the American Lung Association, primarily through our direct mail program. The Lung Association "has always been near and dear to my heart," said Myra, "and I admire the way you spread the message about lung disease and smoking. There's so much good work that the American Lung Association does that the general public doesn't know about."

For the past 10 years, with a diagnosis of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), Myra is breathing with the help of an oxygen tank. And as her journey with lung disease has progressed, so has her support for the mission of the American Lung Association.

Myra became a member of the Legacy Society by including the American Lung Association in her will and encourages others who may be considering a legacy gift. *"You can rest assured that your money will be well spent. The Lung Association will use it to make the air cleaner and help make life better for people with lung disease."*

We applaud Myra for being such a vibrant champion of improving lung health for future generations, and we are so grateful for her ongoing commitment and support.

**For more information about legacy giving,
visit www.Lung.org/planned-giving**

**LUNG
HELPLINE**
& TOBACCO QUITLINE

**QUESTIONS
ABOUT LUNG
HEALTH OR
LUNG CANCER?**

Talk to an Expert:

LUNG HELPLINE

1-800-LUNGUSA
(1-800-586-4872)
Select Option 2

Our Lung Helpline is staffed with registered nurses, respiratory therapists and tobacco cessation specialists to answer your questions about asthma, COPD, lung cancer, quitting smoking and more.

Hours:

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. EST

LUNG CANCER HELPLINE

1-844-ALALUNG
(1-844-252-5864)

If you or someone you love has been diagnosed with lung cancer, speak to our lung health experts for information and support.

Hours:

Monday – Friday
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. EST