The Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS) is interested in better understanding the short- and long-term effects of cancer and its treatment on well-being and trajectories of aging during survivorship. Research funded by DCCPS in this area also aims to strengthen measurement validity, including symptomatic toxicities of treatment and consequent multimorbidity factors. This research also supports patient-generated data to stratify risk, support decision-making, and optimize cancer and aging outcomes in older adults.

Areas of Research Emphasis in Cancer and Aging

- Identification of aging phenotypes in cancer survivors, mechanisms underlying the emergent phenomena, and mitigation of unintended aging-related outcomes in cancer survivors due to cancer and its treatment
- Use of population-based data and existing data resources to address cancer and aging hypotheses
- Implications of aging-related changes in body composition, diet, stress, sleep patterns, medication, oral environment, environmental exposures, and lifestyle behaviors for cancer risk and outcomes
- Measurement of biological, behavioral (e.g., energy balance), and psycho-social (e.g., depression, isolation) risk factors for multimorbidity
- Interventions to address the complexity of symptom management in older adults
- Inclusion of older adults in intervention and observational studies

Selected Funding Opportunity Announcements Relevant to Cancer and Aging

Leveraging Cognitive Neuroscience Research to Improve Assessment of Cancer Treatment-Related Cognitive Impairment
PAR-18-605/R01 and PAR-18-606/R21
Contact: Jerry Suls, Ph.D. | Jerry.Suls@nih.gov | 240-276-6811

Intervening with Cancer Caregivers to Improve Patient Health Outcomes and Optimize Health Care Utilization
PAR-18-246/R01
Contact: Michelle Mollica, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N., O.C.N. | Michelle.Mollica@nih.gov | 240-276-7621

Reducing Overscreening for Breast, Cervical, and Colorectal Cancers among Older Adults
PA-18-015/R21 and PA-18-005/R01
Research Infrastructure Development for Interdisciplinary Aging Studies
PAR-18-645/R21/R33
Contact: Erica Breslau, Ph.D., M.P.H. | Breslaue@mail.nih.gov | 240-276-6773

Oral Anticancer Agents: Utilization, Adherence, and Health Care Delivery
PA-17-060/R01 and PA-17-061/R21
Contact: Wendy Nelson, Ph.D., M.P.H. | nelsonw@mail.nih.gov | 240-276-6971

Cancer and Accelerated Aging: Advancing Research for Healthier Survivors

This initiative represents a collaboration of the National Cancer Institute, the National Institute on Aging, and representatives from cancer research institutions throughout the country. The series of three think-tank meetings aims to identify research gaps and promising approaches to improve our ability to understand, predict, and mitigate aging-related consequences of cancer and cancer treatment.

The series will begin July 25-26 in Rockville, Maryland, with **"Measuring Aging and Identifying Aging Phenotypes in Cancer Survivors."** During this meeting, participants will strive to elucidate the best methods to measure aging among cancer survivors, identify aging phenotypes, and produce a strategic and unified vision to fill the identified research gaps and establish methodological approaches to characterize aging phenotypes.

Future think tanks will work toward identifying the cancer-survivor populations where gaps in knowledge on aging trajectories exist, resources available to examine aging trajectories, analytical methods and modeling approaches to best address relevant research questions, and strategies to prevent, slow, or reverse accelerated aging trajectories among cancer survivors.

DCCPS Cancer and Accelerated Aging Scientific Contacts

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