



Powering Innovative Science to Save More Lives: Cancer Immunotherapy Update

2021 Annual Report

Despite the many health challenges that we as a global community faced in 2021, cancer continues to rank among the top causes of death worldwide. The need for better treatments that help more patients live longer grows more urgent each year.

Fortunately, Cancer Research Institute scientists are bringing hope for a brighter future. Their expert study of the immune system has made possible a new class of cancer treatments called immunotherapy. For patients facing the toughest odds, immunotherapy can be nothing short of a scientific miracle. Yet there is much more work to be done until all patients benefit.

We passionately believe that research is the surest path toward cures for all cancers. In 2021, CRI was able to award \$28.4 million for basic, translational, and clinical research. This funding provides a continuum of support from bench to bedside that is driving discovery, innovation, and better outcomes for patients.

Beyond research, we expanded CRI's Answer to Cancer patient and caregiver educational programming. The trusted, expert-vetted information we provide about immunotherapy is now available in both English and Spanish, ensuring more people can access our resources in the language most comfortable and understandable to them. As a result, CRI is empowering more diverse communities of patients to explore immunotherapy and clinical trials.

As we look back at the past year of progress, CRI stands at the intersection of science and hope, where daring ideas match the bold vision that our founders set out nearly 70 years ago. With our global network of scientists, partner organizations, donors, supporters, and patients, we are making a real difference today that will help generations to come. Together, we are creating a future immune to cancer.

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*Brendan Connors
Stage 4 Melanoma Survivor
and CRI ImmunoAdvocate*

OUR MISSION: SAVE MORE LIVES

by fueling the discovery and development of powerful immunotherapies for all cancers.

Founded in 1953, the Cancer Research Institute (CRI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to funding laboratory and clinical research aimed at harnessing our immune system's power to treat and potentially cure all cancers. This work has led to a revolutionary new class of cancer treatments called immunotherapy, which today is giving millions of cancer patients a better chance at living longer.



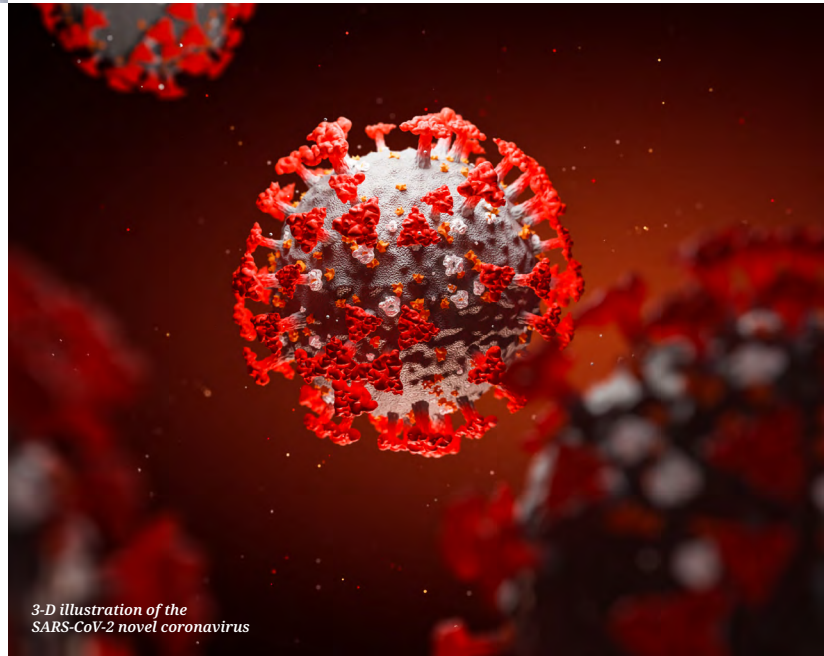
CRI-Fight Colorectal Cancer Investigator Cynthia Sears, M.D., with lab members

Bridging Critical Funding Gaps to Spur Innovation

Beyond projects, CRI invests in people—fueling creativity and providing flexibility to act quickly upon new data and unexpected discoveries. This funding from CRI also facilitates interdisciplinary collaborations that focus expertise from multiple areas of research on the singular aim of improving cancer patient responses to immunotherapy. For example, in 2021, CRI scientists at the University of California, San Francisco advanced new frontiers in genetic engineering to make immune cells better at eliminating infection and cancer. Others at the University of Pittsburgh unlocked new understanding of cellular metabolism and its role in inhibiting anti-cancer immune responses. CRI funding also brings the potential of immunotherapy to more patients. In 2021, scientists working on immunotherapy for rarely studied or hard-to-treat cancers, for example, received a boost from CRI with co-funding from partner nonprofits focused on helping patients with chordoma, colorectal cancer, glioblastoma, and ovarian cancer, among others.

Tackling Cancer and COVID with Immunotherapy

Amidst the devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, CRI scientists were hard at work in 2021, applying their expertise in immunology and infectious diseases to help turn the tide. For example, CRI scientists at the University of Pennsylvania identified a subset of T cells that play a role in causing severe inflammation in some COVID-infected children, offering hope for new treatment strategies for this potentially fatal complication. Other CRI scientists at MIT and Harvard University identified potential new targets for the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines. At Stanford University, CRI scientists studied how RNA from the SARS-CoV-2 virus interacts with human proteins, providing new insights into the viral origin of some cancers and how they can be treated or prevented with immunotherapy. This work, along with that of other CRI scientists, underscores the immense value of basic research on the immune system. It also demonstrates the importance of funding for CRI scientists, who are providing answers not only to cancer, but also infectious diseases like COVID-19.



3-D illustration of the SARS-CoV-2 novel coronavirus

CONFERENCIA VIRTUAL DE INMUNOTERAPIA CONTRA EL CÁNCER GRATUITA Y EN ESPAÑOL

¡No olvides registrarte!

Presentada EN VIVO por **Ana Patricia Gámez**

Helping More Communities Access Trusted IO Information

Navigating a cancer diagnosis and finding trusted information about treatment options can be overwhelming. The hurdles mount when the primary language spoken in a patient’s home is something other than English. As a result, disparities in access to information about the most promising courses of treatment are leaving some patient communities behind. As part of our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, we launched several initiatives in 2021 aimed at reducing these disparities. These include translating our website and other patient information resources into Spanish; hosting the first-ever virtual CRI Immunotherapy Patient Summit; and creating the first cancer immunotherapy patient summit conducted entirely in Spanish. By moving our in-person patient programs to an online format and making them available, on demand, in English and Spanish, we have made it possible for more people—wherever they live—to connect with the science of cancer immunotherapy and the hope it can offer them or a loved one.

The Cancer Research Institute funds the entire spectrum of scientific discovery, from basic laboratory studies on the fundamentals of the immune system to clinical trials of cutting-edge immunotherapy combinations. CRI's funding decisions are guided by a renowned Scientific Advisory Council that includes four Nobel Laureates and 27 members of the National Academy of Sciences. In Fiscal Year 2021, CRI awarded \$28.4 million in grants and fellowships to scientists around the world.

CRI Irvington Postdoctoral Fellowship Program

CRI fellowships support the career development and laboratory research of promising young scientists working under the mentorship of leading immunologists.

\$5,670,500

awarded to 33 scientists

Clinic and Laboratory Integration Program (CLIP)

CLIP grants provide catalytic support for the translation of basic laboratory discoveries into novel therapies that can be tested in the clinical setting.

\$2,597,930

awarded to 13 scientists

CRI Anna-Maria Kellen Clinical Accelerator

The CRI Clinical Accelerator serves as a unique, venture philanthropy-driven partnership model that brings together academia, nonprofit, and industry to develop and de-risk novel cancer immunotherapy combinations.

\$10,687,304

supporting 12 trials or trial arms

Lloyd J. Old STAR Awards

The Lloyd J. Old STAR Program (Scientists **T**Aking **R**isks) provides investigators with long-term funding in order to promote freedom and flexibility in exploring innovative avenues of research.

\$7,500,000

awarded to 6 scientists

Technology Impact Awards

The CRI Technology Impact Award funds initiatives that seek to bridge the gap between the technological development and clinical application of cancer immunotherapies.

\$1,000,000

awarded to 5 scientists

Impact Grants

Impact Grants support projects aimed at advancing scientific goals and addressing challenges that would otherwise limit progress in cancer immunotherapy research and drug development.

\$905,000

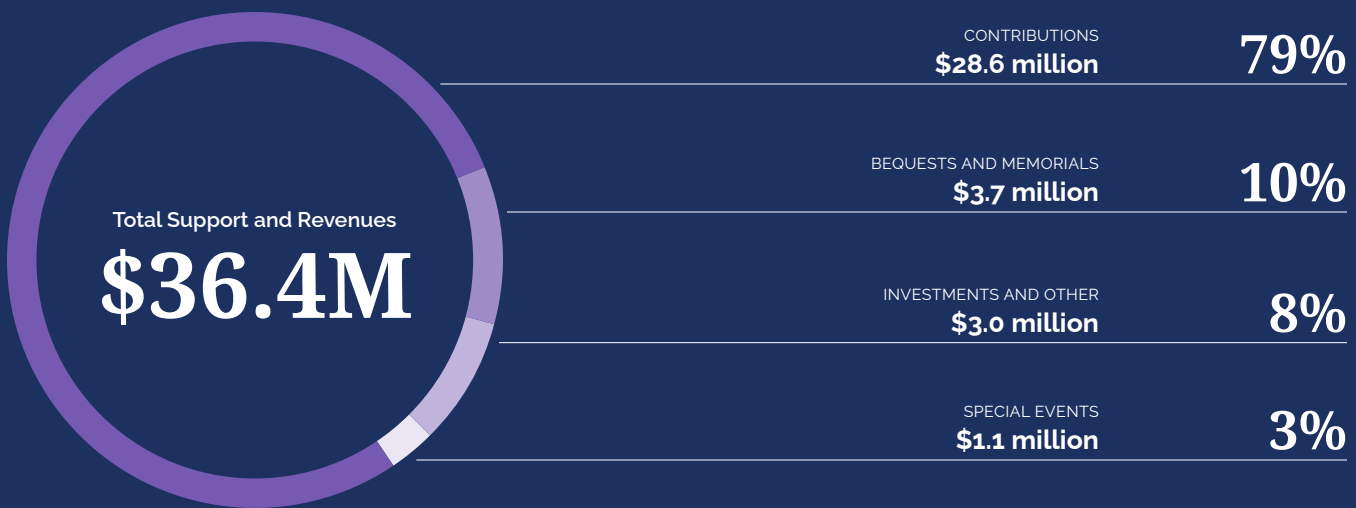
awarded to 2 scientists

Our work to advance lifesaving science is possible thanks to generous support from individuals, foundations, and corporations who share our vision of A Future Immune to Cancer™. In Fiscal Year 2021, donors and supporters gave or raised more than \$29.2 million for the Cancer Research Institute.



- 1 Employees of Crown Bioscience joined CRI and thousands of others on social media for our global #Immune2Cancer Day of awareness during Cancer Immunotherapy Month in June.
- 2 Generous corporate sponsor support made it possible for CRI to hold its first all-virtual Immunotherapy Patient Summit, hosted by Tamron Hall, connecting thousands of patients and caregivers to the science and the experience of cancer immunotherapy.
- 3 CRI community fundraiser David Miller swam a million yards over a year to challenge himself physically while also raising more than \$53,000 for CRI.
- 4 YouTube celebrity Markiplier raised \$500,000 for CRI overnight through calendar sales to his 20 million-strong fanbase.
- 5 Residents of Sailfish Point, Florida, participated in a day of fun activities organized by Jane and Dick Landesman, who have raised more than \$1.3 million for CRI since 2013.
- 6 Mary Jo Bramson and Pam Bringsjord gathered friends for their annual Wear White Luncheon benefiting CRI to learn about and support cancer immunotherapy research.

Our most prized asset is donor trust. To earn and keep this trust, we remain committed to accountability and transparency, holding ourselves to the highest standards of fiscal integrity and responsible use of donor dollars to achieve the greatest mission impact possible.



77% RESEARCH
\$27.5 million*

11% SCIENCE, MEDICAL, AND RESEARCH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
\$4.0 million

8% MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT
\$3.0 million

4% ADMINISTRATION
\$1.5 million



*\$28.4 million awarded less \$878,931 in early terminations of grants and clinical trials from prior years

End of Year Net Assets
\$74.5 million

Leaders in business, philanthropy, and science volunteer their time and expertise to guide CRI's strategic course, shape its mission-driven programs, oversee its operations, and increase awareness of CRI's impact.

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