



For Immediate Release

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Governor Scott: It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget Invests in Priorities for Cancer Patients and Cancer Research

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott today highlighted investments in the It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget for cancer patients and cancer research providing more than \$80 million in total funding for cancer research – an increase of more than \$30 million from FY 2013-14.

Governor Scott said, "This \$80 million investment as part of our It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget will put Florida on the cutting edge of cancer research, which means more effective treatments for families. Every family in Florida is touched in some way by cancer, and this is an important step forward in supporting our loved ones."

Florida Consortium of NCI Centers: The It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget provides \$60 million and establishes the Florida Consortium of National Cancer Institute (NCI) Centers Program to assist Florida's cancer centers in achieving and maintaining the prestigious National Institute of Health's NCI designation. This new program will enhance the quality and competitiveness of cancer care in Florida, further a statewide biomedical research strategy directly responsive to the health needs of Florida's citizens, and capitalize on the potential educational opportunities available to our students. NCI-designated Cancer Centers provide the latest in medical discoveries to patients, serve the educational needs of health professionals, and promote health equity throughout communities. It is because of the work of Florida's cancer centers that patients can receive world-class treatment and the needed support to beat this terrible disease.

James and Esther King: The It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget invests \$10 million for the James and Esther King Biomedical Research Program. This program awards grants to research projects through a competitive, peer-reviewed process so that funds are directed toward the most promising projects.

William G. "Bill" Bankhead and David Coley: The It's Your Money Tax Cut Budget invests \$10 million toward the William G. "Bill" Bankhead and David Coley Cancer Research Program. This program also awards grants to research projects through a

competitive, peer-reviewed process so that funds are directed toward the most promising projects.

Endowed Cancer Research Chair: The Budget supports funding to attract Endowed Cancer Research Chairs to Florida's top cancer centers. Toward this end, \$2 million is provided in this year's Budget for the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center in Jacksonville.

Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection: The Budget provides \$1.8 million for the Mary Brogan Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. This program supports lifesaving cancer screenings for medically underserved women between the ages of 50 and 64.

State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong said, "Governor Scott has taken Florida to a new level of commitment to help families dealing with cancer. This budget provides significant new funding to allow Florida Cancer Centers to achieve designation from the National Cancer Institute which will make Florida a national leader for innovative research, high-quality treatment and comprehensive care."

Dr. Alan F. List, President and CEO of Moffitt Cancer Center said, "The new funding signed into law by Governor Rick Scott will accelerate Florida's leadership on the landscape of cancer research and treatment. This is good news for every community in Florida because it will lead to better outcomes and improved health for families across our state."

University of Florida President Bernie Machen said, "UF Health is committed to providing the highest quality of care for our patients and the new funding for cancer research in the Governor's budget gives hope to families dealing with cancer. As a research community, the institutions serving Florida's residents with cancer are determined to work together toward continuous improvement of care and innovation in treatment."

Dr. Thomas J. George Jr., Chair of the Cancer Control and Research Advisory Council (CCRAB), said, "I applaud Governor Rick Scott for approving this budget that will provide a key investment in Florida's national and global impact on cancer research and care. NCI-designation, and the opportunities that become available with it, will hasten discoveries that will provide new treatments and improved outcomes for Florida patients and their families. This is a significant milestone. Florida's commitment to address the very serious challenge of cancer in our state with research funding should serve as a beacon to the world of our investment in hope to all Floridians."

Dr. Daniel Armstrong, Chair of the Biomedical Research Advisory Council said, "I could not be more pleased with the expanding opportunities for cancer research in Florida due to Governor Rick Scott's strong leadership on this issue. The renewed funding for the King and Bankhead Coley programs will assure vital support for important studies across the state that are seeking cutting edge discoveries directed at

all types of cancers. And the new investment toward additional NCI-designated Cancer Centers sends a vibrant signal that Florida is committed to be the destination for the best research, the most innovative treatment, and improved life outcomes.”

Dr. Layton Smith, Director, Drug Discovery Florida and Assistant Professor, Cardiovascular Pathobiology Program with the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute said, “The Florida Translational Research Program at Sanford-Burnham provides university and institute-based researchers throughout Florida with the opportunity to form research partnerships and gain access to advanced technology that will expedite drug discovery. Governor Scott’s budget means that we can support Florida researchers’ efforts to develop new disease therapies, catalyze additional research funding, and grow Florida's economy.”

Dr. Greg Welmaker, Director of Drug Discovery at the Torrey Pines Institute for Molecular Studies said, “Governor Scott’s continued support for the Florida Drug Discovery Acceleration Program means scientists can test millions of potential drugs more quickly and at reduced costs to identify drugs that cure diseases. Our technology applies to cancer and virtually all other diseases and, during its first year, this program supports over 25 principal investigators at 12 Florida universities and non-profit institutes. This relationship enables researchers to stay in Florida and helps build Florida’s economy through scientific discovery.”

Dr. Stephen D. Nimer, Director, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, said, “We are grateful for the cancer research funding approved in the budget and appreciate the level of commitment demonstrated by Governor Scott and the legislature by this investment. This funding will further improve the cutting-edge work already being done at Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center on behalf of families and patients as we work toward better treatments and eventually a cure for cancer.”

Dr. Robert Smallridge, Deputy Director, Mayo Clinic Cancer Center said, “Mayo Clinic is pleased to receive funding for a new Endowed Cancer Research Chair. This investment by Governor Rick Scott supports the strong relationships Mayo has established in Florida and enhances the important work already being done by our research team in Jacksonville.”

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