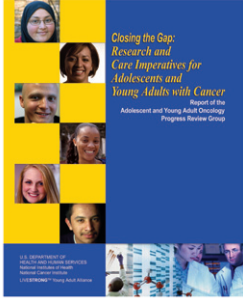


Planning for the Future and Moving Forward



In 2005–2006, the National Cancer Institute (NCI) partnered with the Lance Armstrong Foundation (LAF) to address the special research and cancer care needs of AYAs and solicit recommendations for a national agenda to improve cancer prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment (including survivorship care), and outcomes among these patients.

The group's report, *Closing the Gap: Research and Care Imperatives for Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer*, can be found at: http://planning.cancer.gov/disease/AYAO_PRG_Report_2006_FINAL.pdf

In November 2006, representatives from NCI and the LAF's LIVESTRONG Young Adult Alliance met to develop strategies for transitioning the above recommendations into reality. These strategies, detailed in the 2007 report *Closing the Gap: A Strategic Plan*¹, include:

- Establish a strong scientific foundation to support the biological differences in tumors found in AYAs.
- Leverage completed, ongoing, and new clinical trials to obtain knowledge about cancer in AYAs.
- Increase health care provider awareness of AYA issues by working with professional societies and advocacy organizations.
- Facilitate the development of AYA standards for, and availability of, patient navigators and health coaches.

¹ <http://www.livestrong.org/atf/cf/%7BD0794917-422C-499C-9C48-9ED3DDC42947%7D/LAF%20YAA%20Report.pdf>

Examples of NCI Activities Relevant to AYA Cancer

- The International Ewing Sarcoma Study is testing a promising new agent, an investigational monoclonal antibody called R1507, against Ewing sarcoma. This rare cancer is common in children and AYAs. http://www.cancer.gov/ncicancerbulletin/NCI_Cancer_Bulletin_031808/page3
- The Phase II Study of Combination Chemotherapy in Adolescents and Young Adults with Newly Diagnosed Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) is studying the responses of AYAs with newly diagnosed ALL to a pediatric chemotherapy regimen administered by adult hematologists and oncologists. <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/CALGB-10403>
- The Chronic Illness Self-Management in Children and Adolescents program supports research to improve disease management behaviors and quality of life in children and adolescents with chronic illnesses, including cancer. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-07-097.html>

Selected Advances in AYA Cancer Research

- A recent study that compared the molecular, epidemiological, and therapeutic outcomes in AYAs to those of younger and older people showed that AYAs' malignant disease biology might be distinct. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18354417>
- A combination of the experimental drug mifamurtide and chemotherapy was more effective than chemotherapy alone in patients with osteosarcoma, which is common in AYAs. <http://www.cancer.gov/clinicaltrials/results/osteosarcoma0308>
- Leisure-time physical activity is associated with a reduced risk of breast cancer in AYAs, especially in premenopausal women who regularly participated in high amounts of physical activity both as adolescents and young adults. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18477801>