

NCI Report Language

Cancer Immunotherapy.— The Committee commends the NCI for its longstanding support of research on cancer immunotherapy. As the number of single-agent and combination therapies grows for an expanding list of cancers, more work is needed to learn how to accurately predict whether a given cancer immunotherapy is likely to improve outcomes or cause undesirable side effects in individual patients. While many research programs have been focused on defining biomarkers that could accomplish this goal, validation and eventual standardization of specific biomarkers would greatly enhance the field’s understanding of how to design more effective, less toxic treatments. The Committee therefore urges the NCI to put a higher priority on supporting clinical validation of potential biomarkers that predict clinical outcomes in patients receiving tumor immunotherapy.