

FY23 Appropriations Language

FY23 SITC NCI Appropriations Language

Topic: Cancer Immunotherapy and Correlative Research

Understanding the complex factors that determine whether a particular cancer immunotherapy will succeed for a given patient is a vital area of research. Central to this research is the analysis of blood, tumor, and other tissues in conjunction with the outcome of clinical trials (known as correlative studies), which can help explain why or why not the treatment worked and why or why not it produced side effects. For example, by evaluating biopsies obtained from patients undergoing the treatment, researchers can learn whether the therapy succeeded in activating the immune system. Generally, correlative studies are most useful when conducted at the same time as clinical trials. Too often, however, this does not occur; even in best-case scenarios, correlative studies are often not approved for funding until months after the trials are up and running. The Committee urges NCI to address this problem by prioritizing more funding for correlative studies and simplifying the process for approving them.