



HELPING SAVE LIVES FROM CANCER

1913

The American Cancer Society is founded. Fifteen physicians and businessmen in New York City, who were determined to raise awareness about cancer, form the American Society for the Control of Cancer, later renamed the American Cancer Society.



1946

The American Cancer Society launches our groundbreaking research program. Philanthropist Mary Lasker and her colleagues revolutionize the organization's mission and fundraising efforts, helping to raise more than \$4 million – \$1 million of which was used to establish the program.



1950

CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians begins publication. Visit <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/caac.v1:1/issuetoc> to see the first issue.



1954

The movement to stop smoking and reduce lung cancer begins. An American Cancer Society study confirms the link between smoking and lung cancer. Additional smoking prevention work helps lead to a 50 percent decrease in smoking and a reduction in the death rate from lung cancer. This launches an era of cancer prevention research at our organization.



1970

The first American Cancer Society Hope Lodge® facility opens in Charleston, South Carolina. Volunteer Margot Freudenberg helps open what today has become a home away from home for cancer patients and their caregivers nationwide who need a free, temporary place to stay when traveling far from home for treatment.



1973

Mammography is shown to be the best tool to find breast cancer early. The American Cancer Society invests in a mammography study that confirms it is the best tool for the early detection of breast cancer.



1976

The first Great American Smokeout® event is held. The American Cancer Society hosts an event in California to help nearly 1 million smokers quit for the day. The following year, our organization takes the event nationwide, and it continues to challenge people to stop using tobacco and provide them support to quit today.



1997

The American Cancer Society launches the first 24/7 cancer information call center. Cancer information specialists begin serving patients and their families 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Today, the American Cancer Society provides free information, answers, and support to nearly 1 million people facing cancer who call our toll-free number each year.



Cancer Cytopathology, a peer-reviewed journal for cytopathologists makes its debut, first in *Cancer*, then later as its own publication.

The American Cancer Society creates a book publishing program. The first major consumer book, *Informed Decisions*, is published.

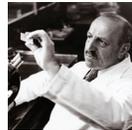
1936

Women make noise to help save lives. A group of passionate women form the Women's Field Army – an organization of women who took to the streets to educate people about cancer and raise money to help save lives. Their contributions were monumental in building the American Cancer Society and the cancer movement.



1948

The American Cancer Society pushes for wide adoption of the Pap test. Cervical cancer death rates have declined by more than 70 percent, largely due to widespread uptake of the Pap test in the latter half of the 20th century.



The first issue of *Cancer*, a peer-reviewed oncology journal, is published. Visit [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/1097-0142\(194805\)1:1%3C%3E1.0.CO;2-G/issuetoc](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/1097-0142(194805)1:1%3C%3E1.0.CO;2-G/issuetoc) to see the first issue.



1952

Cancer Facts & Figures begins publication. This is the American Cancer Society's concise annual summary of population-based cancer statistics.

1958

The American Cancer Society helps fund the foundational research, development, and clinical trials for the chemotherapy drug 5-FU. The organization provided funding that helped Charles Heidelberger, PhD, conduct the foundational research, development, and clinical trials for 5-FU. The drug has been the main chemotherapeutic treatment for colorectal cancer patients since receiving FDA approval in 1962 – and has helped significantly improve survival for those patients.¹

¹ The largest improvement in 5-year survival has been for regional-stage disease, from 55 percent to 73 percent for colon cancer and from 45 percent to 69 percent for rectal cancer. This is likely due to the significant progress in treatment for these patients, namely 5-fluorouracil-based chemotherapy following surgery, which was recommended by a National Institutes of Health expert panel in 1990 for stage III cancers. <http://www.cancer.org/acs/groups/content/documents/document/acspsc-042280.pdf>

1971

The National Cancer Act passes, which starts the “War on Cancer.” The American Cancer Society plays a leading role in the passage of this landmark act, which led to the establishment of cancer centers across the country. Federal cancer research funding significantly increased, with the National Cancer Institute budget rising from \$233 million in 1971 to \$5.2 billion in 2016.

1995

The Behavioral Research Center (BRC) is established. The BRC addresses the need for more information about the quality of life and unmet needs of cancer survivors.



2000

The American Cancer Society starts providing a research-proven, telephone-based intervention to help tobacco users quit smoking, transitioning to the Quit For Life® program in 2009.



2001

The first use of molecularly targeted therapy to treat cancer is successful. Former American Cancer Society grantee Brian Druker, MD, reports stunning success in treating chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) with a molecularly targeted drug (Gleevec) launching a new era of molecularly targeted treatments.



The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN), our advocacy affiliate, is founded.

2002

The Clinical Trials Matching Service is launched.

The first Celebration On The Hill® event shows the importance of advocacy in the mission to end cancer. Delaware is the first state to enact a comprehensive smoke-free law prohibiting smoking in bars, restaurants, and workplaces.



2005

The Health Insurance Assistance Service is launched.

The Employer Initiative is also launched this year. This is our first nationwide engagement strategy with employers to promote cancer prevention and screening through policies, programs, and messaging. A suite of centrally supported wellness products were made consistently available through this initiative.

The Patient Navigator program is launched. Since then, it has served more than 550,000 patients and caregivers, providing more than 1 million referrals to needed resources that help remove barriers to care.

ACS CAN helps the Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act become law, which helps expand access to cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment in medically underserved communities.

2008

The ACS CAN Fight Back Express, the largest grassroots mobilization campaign ever waged on cancer issues, embarks on a six-month journey across the continental United States and gathers more than 100,000 signatures to support access to quality health care for all Americans.



2010

The historic Affordable Care Act is enacted. ACS CAN supports key provisions of the law, which improve access to quality, affordable health care for cancer patients, survivors, and their families.



2014

State and local laws protect 49 percent of the US population from the hazards of secondhand smoke. A total of 24 states, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC, have laws in effect requiring 100 percent smoke-free workplaces, including restaurants and bars.

2003

American Cancer Society research confirms the link between obesity and many types of cancer. American Cancer Society researchers confirm that being overweight or obese contributes to many types of cancer.



2006

ACS CAN and the Relay For Life® program team up for the second, larger Celebration On The Hill event, where 10,000 advocates urge Congress to make cancer a national priority. ACS CAN helps defeat legislation that would have eliminated guaranteed coverage for mammograms and other cancer screenings.



2007

The Personal Health Manager program is launched. Since then, more than 900,000 newly diagnosed cancer patients have been reached. Recipients have been offered the diagnosis-related information and resources they need to manage their disease and treatment.

The American Cancer Society and ACS CAN launch the Access to Care initiative; and the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program is reauthorized at a higher funding level.

2009

After a decade-long campaign by ACS CAN and others, The Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act grants the Food and Drug Administration power to regulate the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of tobacco products; and the federal cigarette tax is raised for the first time since 1997, bringing the total federal tax to \$1.01.

2012

The US celebrates a 20 percent decline in cancer death rates. This translates to 1.3 million lives saved from cancer between 1991 and 2010.

The American Cancer Society's cancer information call center receives its 15 millionth call.



2013

American Cancer Society-funded researcher James Rothman, PhD, wins the Nobel Prize. This brings the total number of Society-funded Nobel Prize winners to 47.



2015

ACS CAN launches the One Degree campaign, a two-year movement to increase cancer research funding. The campaign attracts extensive media coverage and sets off an expanding network that generates nearly 150,000 signed petitions and millions of social media impressions. Congress passes a budget deal that includes a \$2 billion increase for medical research at the National Institutes of Health – the largest sustainable funding boost for medical research in 12 years.

