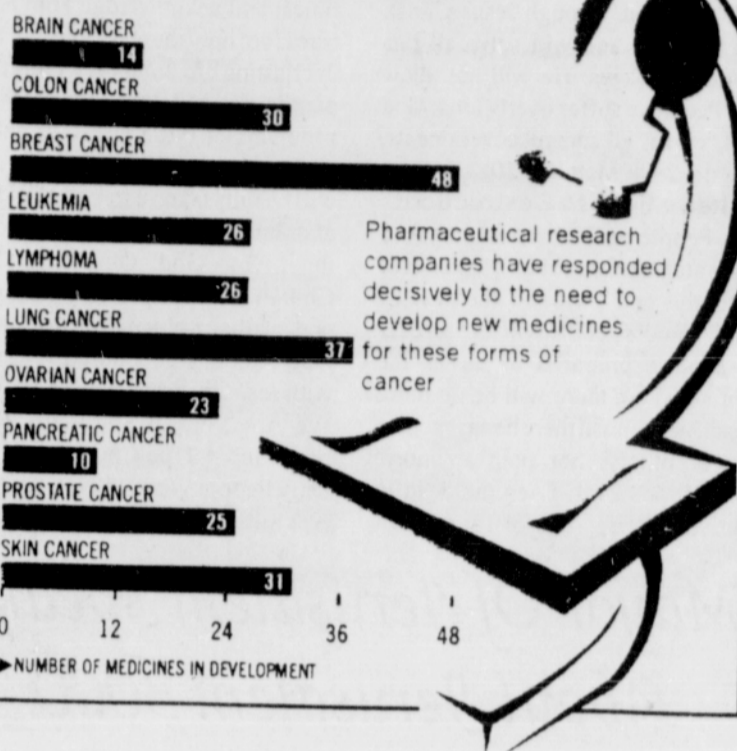


HEALTH

CANCER GETS INCREASED ATTENTION FROM RESEARCHERS

1995 MEDICINES IN DEVELOPMENT FOR CANCER



Pharmaceutical research companies have responded decisively to the need to develop new medicines for these forms of cancer.

BY JOHN F. BEARY, III, M.D.

U.S. research-based pharmaceutical companies are intensifying their efforts to combat cancer--the sec-

ond-leading killer of Americans.

The number of medicines in development for 20 types of cancer has increased from 124 in 1993 to 215 today. The number of companies developing these pharmaceuticals has doubled--from 49 to 98.

Medicines in development include 48 for breast cancer, 37 for lung cancer, 31 for skin cancer, 30 for colon cancer, 26 for leukemia, 26 for lymphoma, 25 for prostate cancer, 24 for solid tumors, 23 for ovarian cancer, 14 for brain cancer and 10 for pancreatic cancer.

A new PhRMA publication, "New medicines in Development for Cancer," lists all of the 215 new Cancer medicines, and identifies the companies developing them. It also shows if drugs are still being tested, or if they are undergoing final Food and Drug Administration approval reviews. This free survey is a valuable resource for physicians and the patients they treat.

"New medicines in Development for Cancer" shows that researchers are developing new ways to deliver medicine directly to tumors, enabling them to use stronger doses without harming healthy tissue.

Some new anti-cancer drugs are wrapped in envelopes of fatty material so that healthy body cells are not exposed to the medicine as it is delivered to tumors. In other instances, proteins in the body that seek out and destroy harmful substances are used to deliver medicine. Researchers, using sophisticated new biotechnology methods, are even working on ways to convert cancer cells into normal body tissue.

The battle against cancer, of course, is far from over. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 1995, more than 1.2 million cases of cancer will be diagnosed, and 547,000 Americans will die. The disease costs our society \$104 billion every year.

But cancer, in many cases, no longer means automatic death. Pharmaceutical advances are helping to improve the survival rate.

To get copies of "New Medicines in Development for Cancer," write to the Editor, "Medicines in Development," Communications Division, 1100 15th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Furse Introduces Diabetes Bill

Increases research to find a cure, paid for through spending cuts

Rep. Elizabeth Furse announced the introduction of her bill to increase diabetes research to find a cure by the end of the decade. While the Diabetes Research Act calls for a \$315 million increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health, Furse said that finding a cure for this illness will save taxpayers billions of dollars each year in health care costs. She has also introduced four bills which cut more than \$10 billion in unneeded spending from a variety of federal departments to pay for the increase in research.

"Diabetes research is at a crossroads," Furse said. "New evidence shows that a cure, or dramatic improvements in self-management are within our reach. My bill makes sure that we do everything we can to improve the quality of life and lower the tragic complications for the 14 million Americans with diabetes."

Earlier this year, Furse participated in a national summit where leading researchers and endocrinologists issued a White Paper on diabetes research. That report concluded that immediately increasing research

efforts could yield substantial and dramatic breakthroughs, including finding a cure.

Furse's bill is a long-term strategy to deal with the problem of diabetes in America, which costs our nation over \$100 billion each year. Everyday, thousands of people go blind, have extremity amputations, or develop heart disease as a result of this illness.

Lee Ducat, Chair of the National Diabetes Research Coalition said, "the Furse bill has the potential to save millions of lives and billions of health care dollars each year."

"As an insulin dependent diabetic, this bill gives me hope that we can beat this villainous illness in my lifetime," added Bill Nash, President of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation's Portland chapter.

Furse also introduced companion bills to cut spending in order to pay for the increase in diabetes research.

"I believe diabetes research should be a priority and finding ways to pay for it means that we can move faster to working on a cure," Furse said.

Furse introduced her bill with Rep. George Nethercutt (R-WA).

Oregon Priority: Child Abuse Prevention

More resources for preventing child abuse is on its way to Oregon's communities.

The State Commission on Children and Families approved Oregon's Family Preservation and Support Services Plan on Friday, June 3, 1995, including the distribution over the next two years of \$3.6 million.

The plan represents the ef-

forts of thousands of Oregonians, building on local comprehensive plans and including input from families all over Oregon.

"A shared goal -- one of Oregon's benchmarks -- is decreasing the number of children abused or neglected. Every community has developed strategies to meet that goal; these dollars will help fund those strategies,"

said Diane Walton, Executive Director of the State Commission.

A key component of Oregon's family support and preservation services plan is Healthy Start, a program designed to develop a web of supports for families during the critical early childhood years.

The program combines

health services, home visitation and family support, and parents participate voluntarily.

The Family Preservation and Support Services Act is a federal program established as part of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993.

The goal of this new federal program is to promote the expansion of family support and family

preservation service, and stimulate systemic reform.

Oregon's allocation over the next five years is \$7.7 million. In Oregon, the opportunity has merged the federal planning process with ongoing efforts, through local commissions on children and families, across the state.

Special efforts were made

to include individuals and groups who had not had previous input on service design, including recipients of services and tribal members.

For further information, or for a copy of the plan, contact Janet Carlson or Steve Nelson at the State Commission on Children and Families in Salem (373-1283).

Planning For School Health Continues

Oregon Department of Human Resources has received a \$100,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support further planning efforts for school based health centers in the state, officials at Health Division announced. The award assures Oregon's ongoing participation in the Foundation's "Marking the Grade: State and Local partnerships to Establish School-Based Health Centers" program for next year.

This second phase of activities will focus on stabilizing funding, improving service delivery, and quality assurance, according to Bob Nystrom, grant coordinator. An initial Foundation grant was received in 1993 for the purpose of planning and expanding the number and scope of school based health centers in Oregon. From that grant, potential demonstration sites in Jackson County, and Umatilla County were selected. This continuation grant will allow for on-site assistance to the three counties in developing local work plans. It also provides for a health care financial analyst to work at both state and local levels in developing financial strategies.

"Oregon is a leader when it comes to school based health cen-

ters," said Dr. Grant Higginson, acting state health officer and project director. "This grant assures funding for continued planning and continued support from the national making the Grade initiative. We will use this opportunity to help position Oregon as a serious competitor for future Implementation Phase funding from the Foundation."

During 1994, 25 school based health centers in high schools and middle schools across the state were used by over 10,000 students, representing more than 40,000 individual visits for services. School based health centers are an important strategy for achieving Oregon Benchmarks focused on improving access to health care, reducing teen pregnancy, eliminating illicit drug use, and keeping children in school. They provide general medical, mental and reproductive health services to students, and promote healthy behaviors through prevention and educational efforts.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is the nation's largest health care philanthropy, established as a national foundation in 1972. It ranks among the seven largest foundations in the United States.

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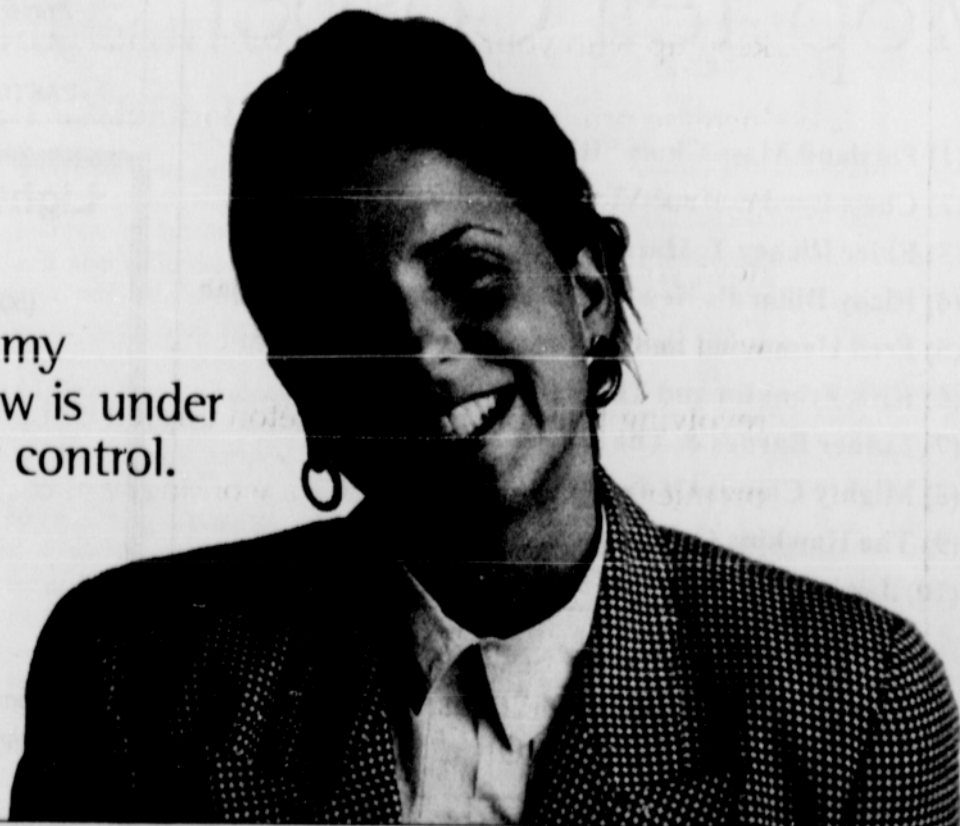
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