

# NEWS

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## **The Florida House and Senate Approve \$9.5 Million for Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center for Continued Research** *~Commitment from the state will play important role in pursuit of NCI designation~*

**MIAMI, FL.** – The Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center will receive nearly \$10 million for continued cancer research as a result of the 2010 Legislative Session. The additional funding from the state will allow Sylvester to recruit additional researchers who have expertise in specific areas of cancer as well as their research teams. As the only academic-based cancer center in South Florida, the impact on patient access to more pioneering therapies will be substantial.

Florida, the third largest state, has the second largest cancer burden of any state in the country with approximately 100,000 cancer deaths every year, yet our state has only one National Cancer Institute Cancer Center. Other states with populations of 10 million or more have multiple NCI-designated cancer centers: California has 10, New York has six, Pennsylvania has five and Texas has three.

“We recognize this is a tight budget year where lawmakers are making difficult decisions. However, cancer does not recognize recession,” said Dr. W. Jarrard Goodwin, Chief Medical Officer, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. “We thank the members of the Miami-Dade delegation, especially State Representative and Chair of the Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care David Rivera and State Representative and Chairwoman of the Health Care Appropriations Committee Denise Grimsley, for their tireless commitment to one of Florida’s most vulnerable populations. Their leadership will ensure continued research, better clinical trials, innovative treatments and increased access to care for cancer patients.”

Sylvester is a dedicated cancer center and an integral component of South Florida’s growing healthcare sector. The prestigious “Cancer Center” designation from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) will allow Sylvester to secure additional sources of funding, recruit scientific and medical talent with greater ease, and improve its research integration with other specialized cancer centers.

With an NCI-designation, Sylvester is expected to support 14,138 jobs in the year 2020 and the expected economic impact is \$1.7 billion. Investing in Sylvester’s future growth and NCI-designation is of key importance to ensure a world-class medical and research facility, providing significant economic and social benefits to South Florida and the State of Florida.

“NCI designation would allow Sylvester to greatly expand Florida’s access to cutting-edge cancer research for millions of residents, including the most vulnerable populations,” said Pascal J. Goldschmidt, M.D., senior vice president for medical affairs and dean of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. “We look forward to continuing to work with our elected officials to improve the lives of patients and the communities we serve.”

[Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center](#) at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine opened in 1992, and since its founding has transformed cancer research and treatment in South Florida and beyond.

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