



## PROMOTING NEW RESEARCH, PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH

Support medical research to develop treatments for skin diseases and support skin cancer prevention.

### The Promise of Medical Research

#### ISSUE OVERVIEW

Medical research is critical to providing effective dermatologic treatment to our patients. Federally funded research sparks remarkable scientific advances that aid understanding, prevention and treatment for thousands of skin diseases and conditions. **Sustained funding is critical to help unlock the discoveries needed to develop new treatments and cures for our patients.**



**At any given time, 1 in 3 Americans suffers from a skin disease.** Many of these diseases are serious, chronic and debilitating conditions that can profoundly impact quality of life by interfering with daily activities and negatively impacting patients' psychological well-being and ability to function in the workplace. Some of these diseases are life-threatening. To help patients, dermatologists use a range of therapies that have been developed as a result of scientific discovery fueled by federally funded research. In addition, the incidence of skin cancer is growing and the disease costs the U.S. billions of dollars annually. However, research shows promise for more effective ways to prevent the disease.

#### AADA ADVOCACY POSITION



**Maintain commitment to medical research and promote skin cancer prevention.** Research at National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS) has led to treatments and cure for numerous skin diseases. Among the numerous skin diseases affecting Americans, skin cancer is one of the most preventable. Yet, each year in the U.S., nearly 5 million people are treated for skin cancer, and the number of new skin cancer cases continues to rise. Exposure to ultraviolet radiation — from the sun and indoor tanning beds — is the most preventable risk factor for all skin cancers, including melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. The national burden of skin cancer is growing, presenting a major public health risk for Americans. It is imperative that we support efforts to stem the tide through development of effective prevention mechanisms.

#### LEGISLATIVE ASKS



##### INCREASE MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING AND SUPPORT SKIN CANCER PREVENTION

- Support funding for the NIH at \$34.5 billion including:
  - \$5.9 billion for the National Cancer Institute
  - \$573 million for the NIAMS
- Maintain \$2 million in funding for the National Skin Cancer Prevention Education Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Eliminate House Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations (LHHS) report language calling for a study on "Non-Burning Sunshine," which is not a recognized scientific term



##### CO-SPONSOR H. Res \_\_\_, PROTECT CHILDREN FROM UV EXPOSURE AND PROMOTE SUN-SAFE BEHAVIOR, which would express congressional support for measures to:

- Bring an end to sunscreen bans in schools and exempt sunscreen from over-the-counter medication bans in schools
- Encourage development of policies that increase access to sunscreen and sun-protective clothing
- Support skin cancer prevention and education efforts for children and parents about sun-safe behavior



##### JOIN THE CONGRESSIONAL SKIN CANCER CAUCUS

Co-chaired by Reps. Charlie Dent (R-PA), Jim Cooper (D-TN), David Joyce (R-OH), and Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), the Congressional Skin Cancer Caucus serves as a forum and resource for members of Congress working to address the growing skin cancer epidemic.



##### OPPOSE EFFORTS TO REPEAL THE INDOOR TANNING TAX

H.R. 2698 would repeal the 10 percent indoor tanning excise tax. The AADA opposes this bill and urges Congress to maintain current law that sends a strong public health message in recognition of the potentially fatal effects associated with indoor tanning.

#### SKIN CANCER FACTS



The **average annual cost of treating skin cancers in the U.S. is estimated at \$8.1 billion** — about \$4.8 billion for non-melanoma skin cancers and \$3.3 billion for melanoma.



**Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States.** In fact, it is estimated that **1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer** at some point.



It is estimated that more than **8,500 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with skin cancer every day**, and on average, one person dies of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, every hour.



Melanoma is the **second most common form of cancer for young women age 15-29.**



**Using indoor tanning beds before age 35** can increase your risk of melanoma by 59 percent, and the risk increases with each use.



Researchers estimate that **indoor tanning may cause upwards of 400,000 cases of skin cancer** in the U.S. each year.