

Joe Harford, PhD

Dr. Joe Harford has a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and has conducted basic research in cell biology resulting in over 100 scientific publications. He edited *mRNA Metabolism and Post-transcriptional Gene Regulation* and is an editor for *Current Protocols in Cell Biology*. In 1993, Dr. Harford became the chief scientist for RiboGene, Inc. where he managed its drug discovery programs. In 1996, Dr. Harford was named Associate Director of the National Cancer Institute and Chief of Staff of the Office of the Director. In 2002, Dr. Joe Harford became Director of the Office of International Affairs of the NCI where he has responsibility for interactions between the NCI and international entities. Dr. Harford serves as the Chair of the Strategic Advisory Group of the Ireland-Northern Ireland-NCI Cancer Consortium and as NCI liaison to the Middle East Cancer Consortium (MECC), the US-Japan Cooperative Cancer Research Program, the African Organization for Research and Training in Cancer (AORTIC), the American-Russian Cancer Alliance (ARCA), and the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR). Dr. Harford has represented the United States on the Governing Council of the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP). Dr. Harford has also been deeply involved in NCI's work in Jordan first with the King Hussein Cancer Center (KHCC) and subsequently with the King Hussein Cancer & Biotechnology Institute (KHCBI). In July 2006, Dr. Harford was named as Strategic Leader for Knowledge Transfer by the International Union Against Cancer (UICC). In this role, he has oversight of global training fellowships for UICC and for the TNM tumor staging system used widely around the world. In 2007, Dr. Harford was recognized by the Arab Medical Association Against Cancer with an award reading "In recognition for his significant contribution to enhance the status of cancer care and cancer research in the region and for his unwavering efforts to support needed infrastructure and create opportunities in cancer education, training and capacity building to help cancer patients and their families throughout the Arab world."



NCI Description

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which is one of 11 agencies that compose the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The NCI, established under the National Cancer Institute Act of 1937, is the federal government's principal agency for cancer research and training. The National Cancer Act of 1971 broadened the scope and responsibilities of the NCI and created the National Cancer Program. Over the years, legislative amendments have maintained the NCI authorities and responsibilities, and added new information dissemination mandates as well as a requirement to assess the incorporation of state-of-the-art cancer treatments into clinical practise.

The NCI coordinates the National Cancer Program, which conducts and supports research, training, health information dissemination, and other programmes with respect to the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer, rehabilitation from cancer, and the continuing care of cancer patients and their families.

Specifically, the Institute:

- Supports and coordinates research projects conducted by universities, hospitals, research foundations, and businesses throughout the country and abroad through research grants and cooperative agreements
- Conducts research in its own laboratories and clinics
- Supports education and training in fundamental sciences and clinical disciplines for participation in basic and clinical research programmes and treatment programmes relating to cancer through career awards, training grants, and fellowships
- Supports research projects in cancer control
- Supports a national network of cancer centres
- Collaborates with voluntary organisations and other national and foreign institutions engaged in cancer research and training activities
- Encourages and coordinates cancer research by industrial concerns where such concerns evidence a particular capability for programmatic research
- Collects and disseminates information on cancer
- Supports construction of laboratories, clinics, and related facilities necessary for cancer research through the award of construction grants

Further information can be found at www.cancer.gov