

Office of Cancer Survivorship

Julia H. Rowland, Ph.D., Director

The Epidemiology/Cancer Survivorship Interface

National Cancer Institute • National Institutes of Health • DHHS



<http://survivorship.cancer.gov>



Survivorship relevant epidemiologic studies
do not focus solely on survival!

<http://survivorship.cancer.gov>



Definitional Issue: *What is Cancer Survivorship Research?*

❖ **Cancer Survivorship Research seeks to:**

1. Identify, examine, prevent, and control adverse cancer- and treatment-related outcomes (such as pain, lymphedema, sexual dysfunction, second cancers, poor quality of life)
2. Provide a knowledge base regarding optimal follow-up care and surveillance of cancer survivors, and
3. Optimize health after cancer treatment.

<http://survivorship.cancer.gov>



The Epidemiology/Cancer Survivorship Interface

**A variety of classic (and hybrid)
epidemiologic research designs are
utilized by survivorship relevant studies**

- ✓ **Cohort**
- ✓ **Case-control**
- ✓ **Nestted case-control**
- ✓ **Cross-sectional, followed by cohort**
- ✓ **Trial/intervention designs**

<http://survivorship.cancer.gov>



The Epidemiology/Cancer Survivorship Interface

Examples of descriptive/analytic research germane to survivorship:

- ✓ **Prevalence and incidence of physiologic late effects (e.g., SNMs, pulmonary fibrosis, cardiotoxicity), and risk factors for developing these**
- ✓ **Examination of the role of life-style and health behaviors on morbidity (e.g., exercise, smoking)**
- ✓ **Identification of ‘protective factors’ or characteristics of ‘extraordinary’ survivors**

<http://survivorship.cancer.gov>



The Epidemiology/Cancer Survivorship Interface

Gap Areas for pursuit:

- ❖ Influence of cancer predisposing risk factors, on survivorship outcomes
- ❖ Health and HRQOL outcomes of cancer and its treatment among long-term survivors (>5 years)
- ❖ Role of co-morbidity in outcomes
- ❖ The role of socio-cultural and behavioral factors and their potential biological mechanisms in modulating in outcomes
- ❖ Nature and type of post-treatment care utilized received and its impact on outcomes (incl econ)
- ❖ Influence of family on survivors' health, and vice versa

<http://survivorship.cancer.gov>



Resources to Support “Bridging” the Science...

Measurement Tools

HRQOL & symptom assessment

Co-morbidity

Health behaviors/practices

Disease status (CTC-LE; trajectory)

Collaborators/Expertise

PIs (see list in materials)

NCI staff

<http://survivorship.cancer.gov>



The Take Home Message:

We need to be leveraging the rich epidemiologic databases and studies already being supported by NCI to answer key questions about the nature of and ways to improve cancer survivors' post-treatment health and well-being!

<http://survivorship.cancer.gov>





Cancer Control & Population Sciences

Cancer Control H ▲

Help

Contact Us

Search

Welcome to: survivorship.cancer.gov

Cancer Survivorship Research



↻ About Cancer Survivorship

- ▶ Office History
- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Fact Sheet
- ▶ Staff List

↻ Post Treatment Resources

- ▶ Reports
- ▶ Links

↻ Funding Opportunities

- ▶ Apply for grants
- ▶ Requests for Applications / Program Announcements
- ▶ Application forms

↻ Current Research

- ▶ Active Research Grant Portfolio
- ▶ NIH Survivorship Research Portfolio

↻ Research Findings

- ▶ Evidence-based interventions

Key Initiatives

- [Minority & Underserved Cancer Survivors](#)
- [U.S. Prevalance Estimates **NEW!!**](#)

New Reports

- [Facing Forward: Life After Cancer Treatment](#)
- [Facing Forward: Ways You Can Make a Difference in Cancer](#)
- [Sign adelante: la vida](#)