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May 29, 2003

**Re: Senate Bill 352**

Dear Members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee,

Senate Bill 352 could establish Nevada as a leader in cancer research and treatment. The Nevada Cancer Institute, which is currently underway in southern Nevada, is positioned to become a state of the art research and treatment center. On May 27, 2003 ground was broken to build the Nevada Cancer Institute and it is expected to be fully operational by late 2004. Nevada is grossly lacking in cancer treatment and research. It is expected that 10,300 Nevadans will be diagnosed with cancer in 2003 and about half of those diagnosed will lose their life to cancer. In the past many Nevadans had to leave our state for cancer treatment. Now they will have access to state of the art technology, highly specialized care and greater hope.

By designating the Nevada Cancer Institute as the official cancer institute of the state of Nevada, you will send a strong message of support to cancer patients and survivors of cancer and their families. This is not merely an honorary action, but such a designation would allow the Nevada Cancer Institute to have greater opportunities for federal funding.

On behalf of the American Cancer Society and our 6,000 state wide volunteers, we urge you to help us fight cancer and ask for your support of Senate Bill 352.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Buffy Gail Martin*

Buffy Gail Martin

Government Relations Director - Nevada

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WHERE THERE IS

L I F E

T H E R E I S

H O P E

Nevada Cancer  
INSTITUTE

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The Nevada Cancer Institute's mission is to fight cancer through exceptional patient care, education and ground-breaking research. We will create a center where, for the first time, Nevadans can receive comprehensive cancer treatment in their home state.*

*Our paramount objective is to reduce the incidence, mortality and morbidity of cancer, both in Nevada and beyond.*

## ABOUT NVC

The Nevada Cancer Institute is a non-profit research and care facility dedicated to the detection, prevention and treatment of cancer in the state of Nevada which, until now, had no such resource available.

Currently, Nevada ranks 10th highest in cancer mortality rates among the 50 states and has double the U.S. average of lung cancer. NVC has steadfastly resolved to change those statistics by creating a world-class facility which offers all cancer patients, regardless of their economic status, state-of-the-art treatment and comprehensive cancer care.

# THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

The Nevada Cancer Institute was founded in the Spring of 2002, with the objective of dramatically expanding the breadth of cancer treatment available to all Nevadans and supporting the local efforts of the many dedicated people already engaged in the research and treatment of this terrible disease.

We are pleased to announce that much progress has been made toward this ambitious goal. The Institute has already garnered widespread support from United States Senators Harry Reid and John Ensign and our Congressional Representatives, Jim Gibbons, Shelley Berkley and Jon Porter, resulting in \$1.9 million in Federal appropriations for 2003.



Additionally, the establishment of a world-class facility will raise the bar in education and medical care for all Nevadans through increased credibility in national and international arenas. And greater revenue for the state is greatly fostered as the Institute attracts both the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.

Most importantly, Nevada will now be home to a comprehensive cancer care center of excellence. Gone will be the days when patients had to travel out of state for specialized diagnoses and treatments. Soon, all Nevadans—regardless of economic status—will have access to state-of-the-art technology, highly specialized care and greater hope.

Sincerely,

Jim Murren

Heather Murren

## RESEARCH AND DESIGNATION GOALS



The Nevada Cancer Institute is committed to attaining a National Cancer Institute designation as a "Comprehensive Cancer Center" by 2010. This special designation, is awarded only to facilities that demonstrate first-rate research, unsurpassed patient care, leadership in education and cancer prevention, and the seamless integration of research and clinical efforts leading to new discoveries and more effective treatments.

# NEVADA CANCER STATISTICS AT-A-GLANCE

- Nevada ranks 10th highest in overall mortality rates among the 50 states in 2002, up from 12th in 2001.
- Cancer death rates for men in Nevada are 2% above the national average.
- Cancer death rates for women in Nevada are 9% above national average. (The nation's highest mortality rate for cancer in women.)
- 4300 cancer deaths are estimated for Nevada in 2003, up 8% from 2002.
- The 6-year relative cancer survival rates in Nevada are far below the national rates.

## Comparison of Six-Year Survival Rates U.S. vs. NV

Primary Site	National %	Nevada %
Breast (female)*	84	67
Colon & Rectum*	60	27
Lung & Bronchus*	14	5
Melanoma (skin)*	89	20
Prostate*	97	63
Esophagus†	13	5
Kidney†	62	43
Larynx†	64	64
Liver†	7	5
Oral Cavity†	56	20
Ovary†	53	26
Pancreas†	4	1
Stomach†	22	6
Thyroid†	96	83
Urinary Bladder†	82	49
Uterine Cervix†	71	51
Uterine Corpus†	84	59

\*SEER Cancer Statistics Review Data.

†American Cancer Society Facts & Figures 2003 and Nevada Bureau of Health Planning and Statistics.

Note: National five-year average. Nevada six-year average. For general benchmarking purposes only.

Data analysis for comparability currently in progress.



# MILESTONES

*Since the inception of the Nevada Cancer Institute, several important milestones have been reached. Listed below is a brief summation of our accomplishments to date:*

- NVCI officially launched its concept with nationally-recognized cancer center directors and leading pharmacologists in a private seminar, presenting the Institute's overall model for success to the community.
- Working dialogues and partnerships with national organizations such as The Milken Institute, Yale University School of Medicine, M.D. Anderson, and the U.C.L.A.-Boyer Cancer Center have been established by NVCI.
- The Institute has established a working and collaborative relationship between the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the University of Nevada School of Medicine, University of Nevada, Reno, for all cancer-related disciplines.
- Giuseppe Pizzorno of Yale University's pharmacology faculty has become NVCI's first federally-funded nationally-renowned pharmacologist and researcher, joining the staff as Director of Translational Research and Joint Faculty of UNLV.
- NVCI has appointed University of Nevada, Reno professor Dr. William Murphy, most recently Director of Basic Research at the National Cancer Institute in Frederick, Maryland, as Director of Basic Research.



- The Institute has appointed Dr. John R. Murren as Acting Director of Clinical Research for NVCI. Dr. Murren is currently Chief of the Yale Medical Oncology Clinic and Associate Professor of Medicine, Yale University School of Medicine.
- NVCI has hosted two Science Summits, attended by national and international experts from distinguished institutions such as M.D. Anderson, Mayo Clinic, University of Arizona and Yale University.
- The Institute's first fundraiser garnered over \$1.5 million—exceeding expectations by 50%.
- Architectural planning for our facility including laboratories and clinical research, has been completed through a partnership with Marnell Corrao Associates and Design for Science.
- Our scientific Advisory Board has been established, with membership including some of the nation's leading cancer center directors and researchers.
- NVCI has retained Dr. Mary Todd, Deputy Director of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, as Acting Project Director.
- NVCI has been designated by Nevada's Federal delegation as the recipient of the state's only Federal appropriation for the creation of a National Cancer Institute designated comprehensive cancer center in Nevada.
- Ground-breaking is scheduled for May 30, 2003, with completion and opening slated for late 2004.

**It is with great pride that Nevada Cancer Institute announces the following appointments to its faculty:**

***Giuseppe Pizzorno, Ph.D., Pharm.D.***  
*Director of Translational Research*

Dr. Pizzorno received his degrees in Medicinal Chemistry (1983) and Pharmaceutical Science (1984) from the University of Genoa. He joined the Department of Pharmacology at the National Cancer Institute in Genoa in 1984 before moving to Yale University's Department of Pharmacology in 1986.

Subsequently, Dr. Pizzorno became the Director of Clinical Pharmacology at the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1991, a position he held until 2002. He is currently an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Pharmacology, and coPrincipal Investigator and Director of Research for Yale's Pediatric Pharmacology Unit. Additionally, Dr. Pizzorno has served as a consultant to the National Cancer Institute, reviewing funding grants.

***William Joseph Murphy, Ph.D.***  
*Director of Basic Research*

A leading expert in bone marrow transplantation (BMT) research and in vivo models in cancer, Dr. William Murphy earned his B.S. in Biology at Rutgers University, and his Ph.D. in Immunology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in 1989.

Following a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute (Frederick, MD), Dr. Murphy became Principal Investigator and Section Head of the Transplantational Biology Laboratory in 1996, as well as Director of Basic Research.

Dr. Murphy currently serves as a Professor in the Microbiology and Immunology department at the University of Nevada School of Medicine in Reno, and recently received the American Cancer Society Scholar Award for his research on immunotherapy and bone marrow transplant. In addition, Dr. Murphy has been a National Cancer Institute consultant, reviewing grant submissions.

***John Robert Murren, M.D.***  
*Director of Translational Research*

Dr. John Murren is a renowned medical oncologist and cancer researcher specializing in the treatment and prevention of lung cancer. Having earned a B.A. in Chemistry from Duke University and a M.D. from the Loyola-Stritch School of Medicine, Dr. Murren completed his internship and residency at St. Vincent's Hospital (New York) where he also served as Chief Resident.

After accepting a post-doctoral fellowship in Medical Oncology at the Yale-New Haven Hospital in 1988, Dr. Murren progressed to his current post as Chief of the Yale Medical Oncology Outpatient Clinic and Director of the Lung Cancer Unit at the Yale Cancer Center in New Haven, CT. His investigations have yielded invaluable contributions to the understanding of the effectiveness of cancer drug therapies. Over the course of his career, Dr. Murren, has also served as a National Cancer Institute consultant for grant funding.

***Mary Todd, M.D.***  
*Interim Project Director*

Currently the Deputy Director of the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, Dr. Todd received her B.S. Magna Cum Laude from Oklahoma City University. After attending medical school at Oklahoma College of Medicine and Surgery at Oklahoma State University, she completed her residency at Mt. Sinai Hospital, University of Connecticut, and a fellowship in Medical Oncology at Yale/New Haven Hospital.

Dr. Todd subsequently joined the faculty at Yale School of Medicine, where she rose to the rank of Associate Professor and served as Director of the Oncology Outpatient Services at the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Today, Dr. Todd also serves as the Chair of the FDA Scientific Advisory Panel for Immunologic Devices and Drug Administration and sits on the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society (Eastern Division). In addition, she is a Professor of Medicine at UMDNJ/Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

***Adjunct Faculty:***

***Iain Buxton, Ph.D.***  
Professor of Pharmacology,  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

***Stephen Carper, Ph.D.***  
Associate Professor of Chemistry,  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

***Dorothy Hudig, Ph.D.***  
Professor of Microbiology,  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

***Kenneth Hunter, Ph.D.***  
Professor of Microbiology and Immunology,  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

***Joe Lombardo***  
Director, Super Computing Center,  
University of Nevada Las Vegas

***Glenn Miller, Ph.D.***  
Professor and Director of the Environmental Science and Health Graduate Program,  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

***Gregory Pari, Ph.D.***  
Co-Director of Cell, Molecular Biology and Immunology,  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

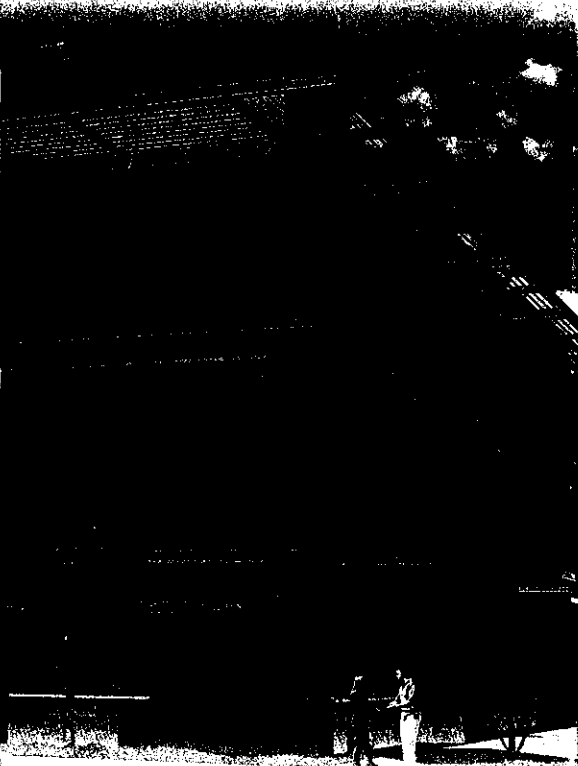
***Chris Pustos, Ph.D.***  
Associate Director, ESH,  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

***J. Francis Turner, Jr., M.D.***  
Associate Professor, Chief Division of Pulmonary,  
Critical Care Medicine and Adjunct Research Professor  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

***William Zamboni, M.D.***  
Professor and Chairman—Department of Surgery,  
University of Nevada School of Medicine

As of 04/02/03

# PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH



The Nevada Cancer Institute is currently recruiting a distinguished staff of researchers, scientists and doctors whose professional accomplishments are equalled only by their personal commitment to defeating cancer. We are searching for qualified Basic/Translational Scientists, Clinical Oncologists, and Oncology Nurses. For more information regarding these opportunities, or to submit an application, please contact Nevada Cancer Institute at 702.895.2947 or via e-mail at [hr@nevadacancerinstitute.org](mailto:hr@nevadacancerinstitute.org).

## HOW YOU CAN HELP



It may seem like the battle against cancer is fought with research, treatments, and therapies. But in reality, the most effective weapons we have are personal commitment and care. By offering your time, or making a charitable gift, you enable a wide array of programs and services to provide hope, progress and answers to those who need them most.

We hope you will consider making a commitment that will truly make a historical difference. If you would like to be a part of this important endeavor, please contact

The Nevada Cancer Institute at  
702.895.2947 or visit our website at  
[www.nevadacancerinstitute.org](http://www.nevadacancerinstitute.org).

*Contributions to the Nevada Cancer Institute are tax deductible as provided by law.*