

The Pan-Canadian Cancer Research Strategy

CPAC Stakeholder Forum, July 7-8 2009

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Chair, Research Action Group

Co-Chair Canadian Cancer Research Alliance

Outline

- The Canadian Cancer Research Alliance:
 - What it is
 - What it does
- Developing a pan-Canadian framework for cancer research: from survey to strategy
 - Goal of CCRA strategic planning
 - *Why this is important & how you can contribute*

CCRA has its origins in the *Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control (CSCC)*

- As one of Several Action groups, “Research Action Group” (RAG) was to add *research input to CSCC*
- Under Dr. Phil Branton’s chairmanship:
 - RAG members wanted stronger and broader voice to address research issues across the spectrum
 - December 2003: research funders were invited to an open forum to discuss a vision for a nationally coordinated cancer research effort.
 - *This group became the CCRA and is now composed of Canada’s major cancer research funders.*

Today: CCRA --- 23 Cancer Research Funders (Co-chairs: E. Eisenhauer and M. Park)



CCRA activities --

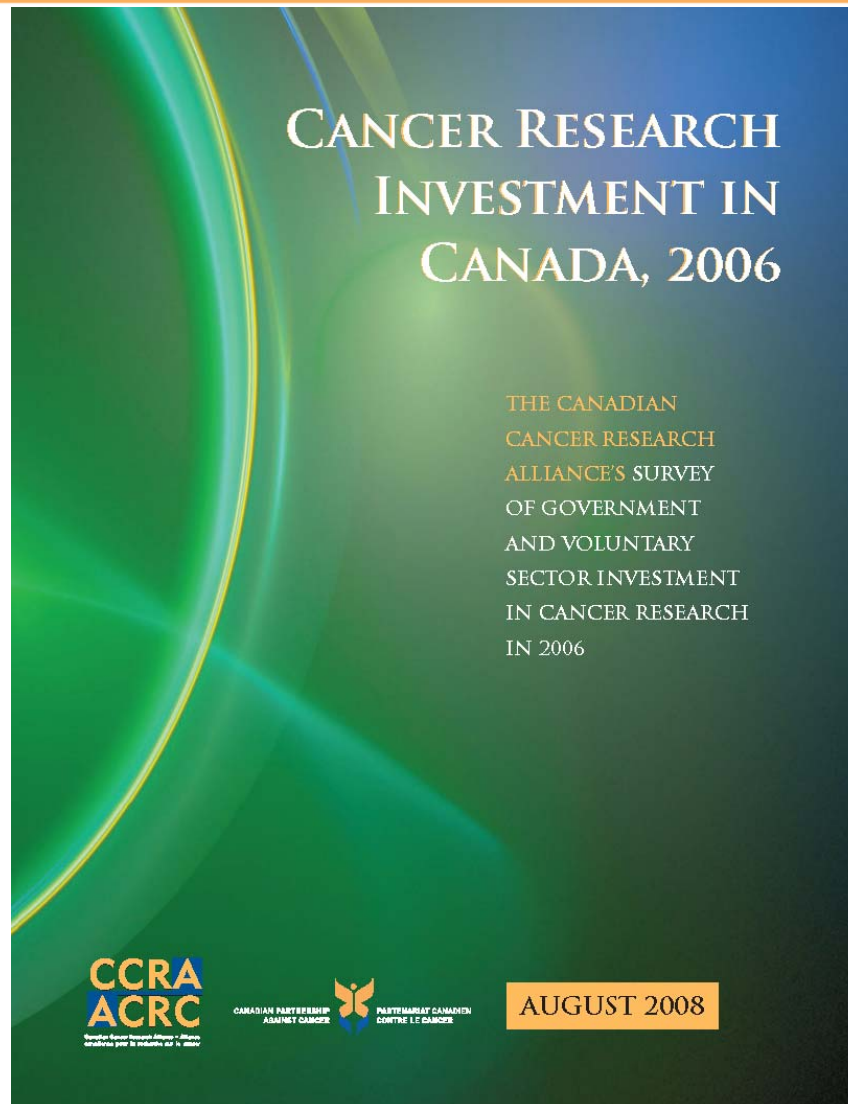
- acts as the **Research Action Group** of The **Canadian Partnership Against Cancer** --- the federally funded organization to implement CSCC
- identifies, develops, and initiates large transformative cancer research initiatives funded by CPAC (the PAN-CANADIAN COHORT and a TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH INITIATIVE)
- documents cancer research activity in Canada
- coordinates cancer research at a pan-Canadian level

CCRA Cancer Research Survey...

- The first collaborative effort of CCRA members:
 - Published annually beginning in 2007
 - Reports on funded research from ALL CCRA members....indeed criterion of membership is to share and code data for survey
 - Uses “Common Scientific Outline” as the language for the classification framework
- Assists in the identification of significant gaps and potential opportunities in cancer research

Provides foundation for development of a pan-Canadian research strategy

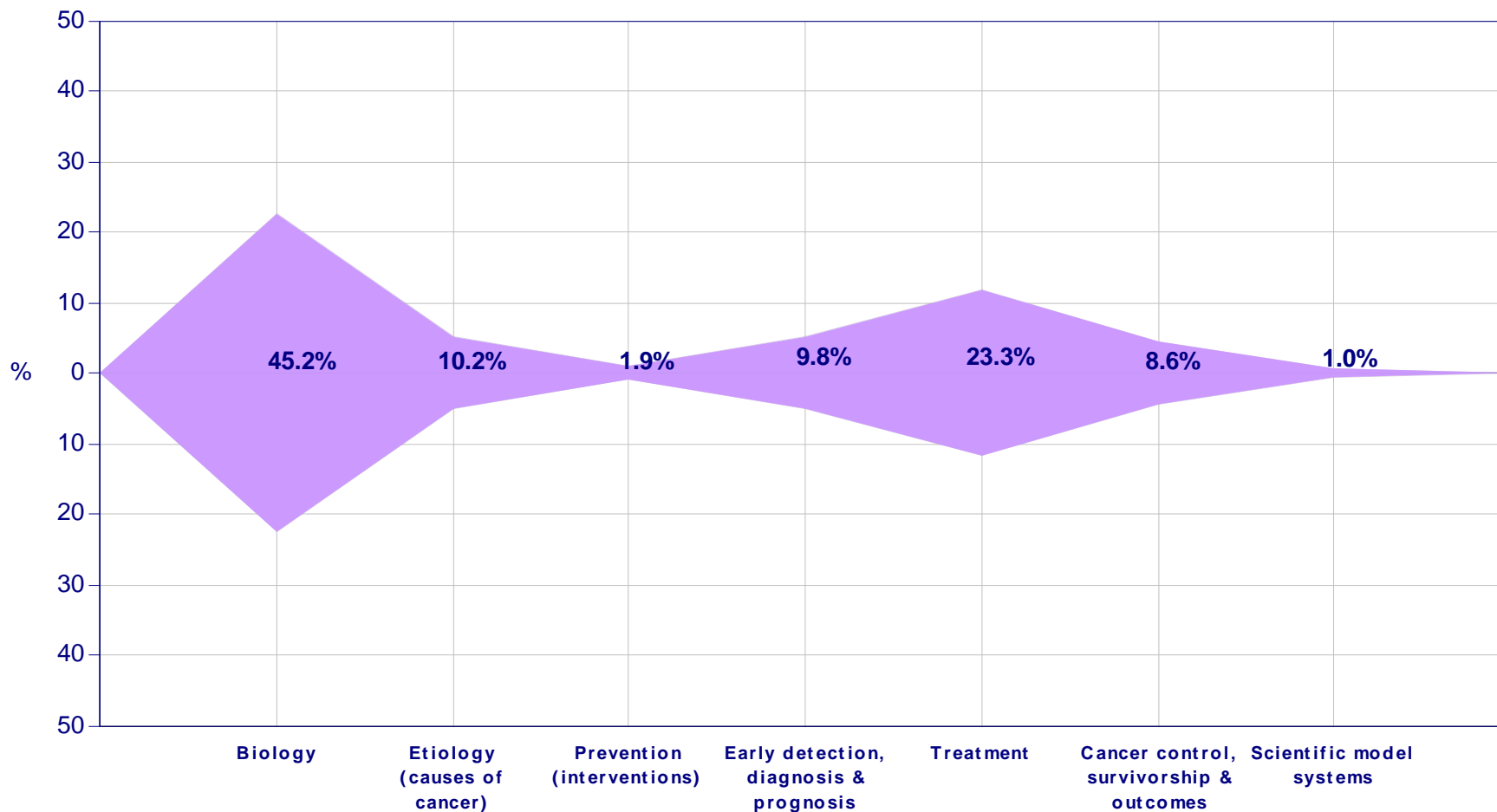
Report Highlights: 2008 publication of 2006 Data



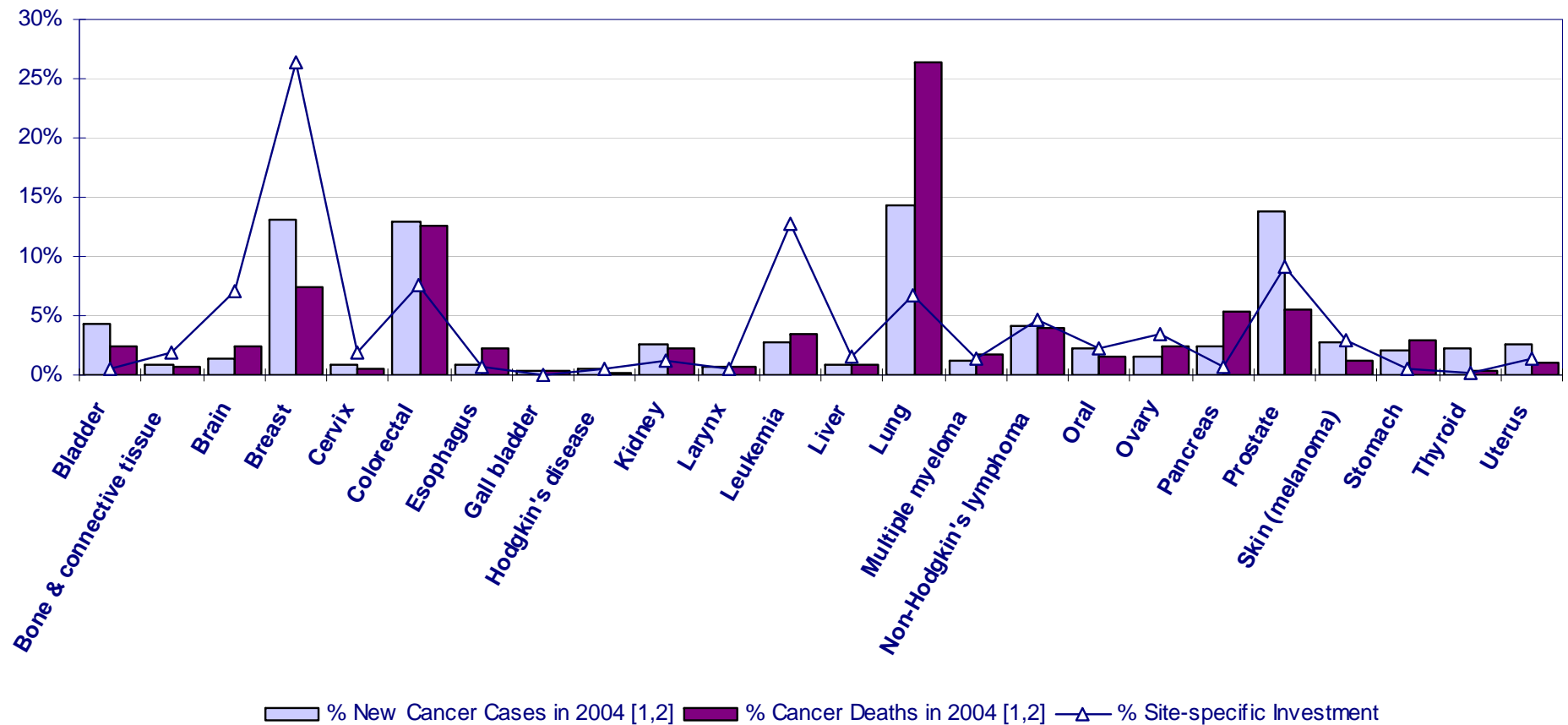
Overall Investment 2006 – *Highlights of 2008 report*

- **More than \$390.2M invested in 2006**
- Largest overall funder:
Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) at \$124.5M, followed by the Canada Foundation of Innovation at \$80.4M.
- Largest funder in voluntary sector:
Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) at \$41.5M.
- Both CIHR and CCS, as well as other voluntary sector organizations, also contributed to *multi-funded initiatives.*

Distribution of all 2006 cancer research investment by CSO category (\$390.2M)



Distribution of 2006 site-specific cancer research investment (\$183.5M) by new cancer cases and deaths



From Survey to Strategy...

- Survey data led to important questions for members of CCRA. For example:
 - How to fund the gaps? These gaps are beginning to inform planning of several research organizations - *indeed there is NEW investment in several areas starting in 2008-9 →*

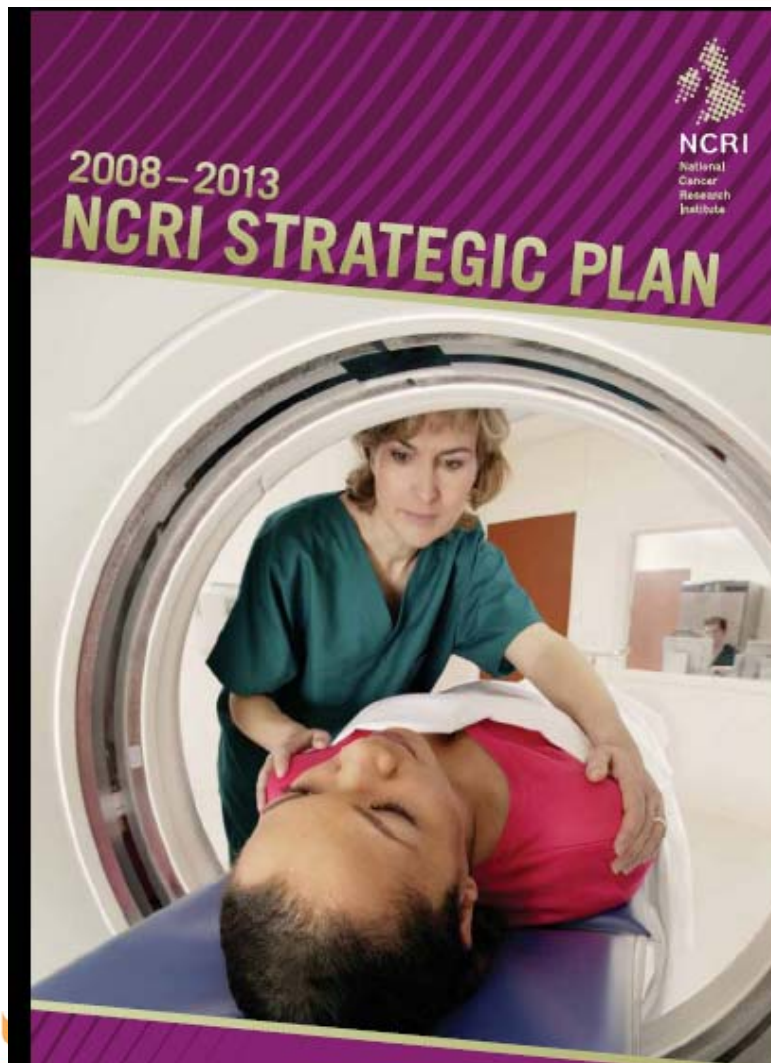
Examples of NEW initiatives since 2006 data (\$ Multimillion, Multiyear)

- **Prevention/Etiology:**
 - CCS prevention initiative
 - Canadian Partnership for Tomorrow Project
 - CAREX Canada
- **Translational Research**
 - TFRI programs
 - OICR programs
- **Cancer Stem Cells**
 - Cancer Stem Cell Consortium
- **Cancer Survivorship**
 - Under development
- **Health Economics, Policy**
 - CCS
 - OICR
- **Early Detection**
 - OICR
- **Lung Cancer**
 - Ontario Division CCS
 - TFRI
- **Occupational Cancer**
 - CCS, CCO, others
- **Cancer Genome**
 - OICR, other partners

From Survey to Strategy...

- Survey data led to important questions for members of CCRA. For example:
 - How to fund the gaps? These gaps are beginning to inform planning of several research organizations - *indeed there is NEW investment in several areas starting in 2008-9*
 - How to maximize opportunities for collaborative research and partnerships?
- CCRA member organizations agreed they would like to see **their strategic plans informed by a pan-Canadian strategic plan**

A model? the UK NCRI experience



- National Cancer Research Institute:
 - Alliance of 21 UK cancer research funders
- Published strategic plan in 2008. Identified key areas to sustain, enhance, and provide new investment
- Partnerships established around many initiatives, but in each case "*lead*" organization identified

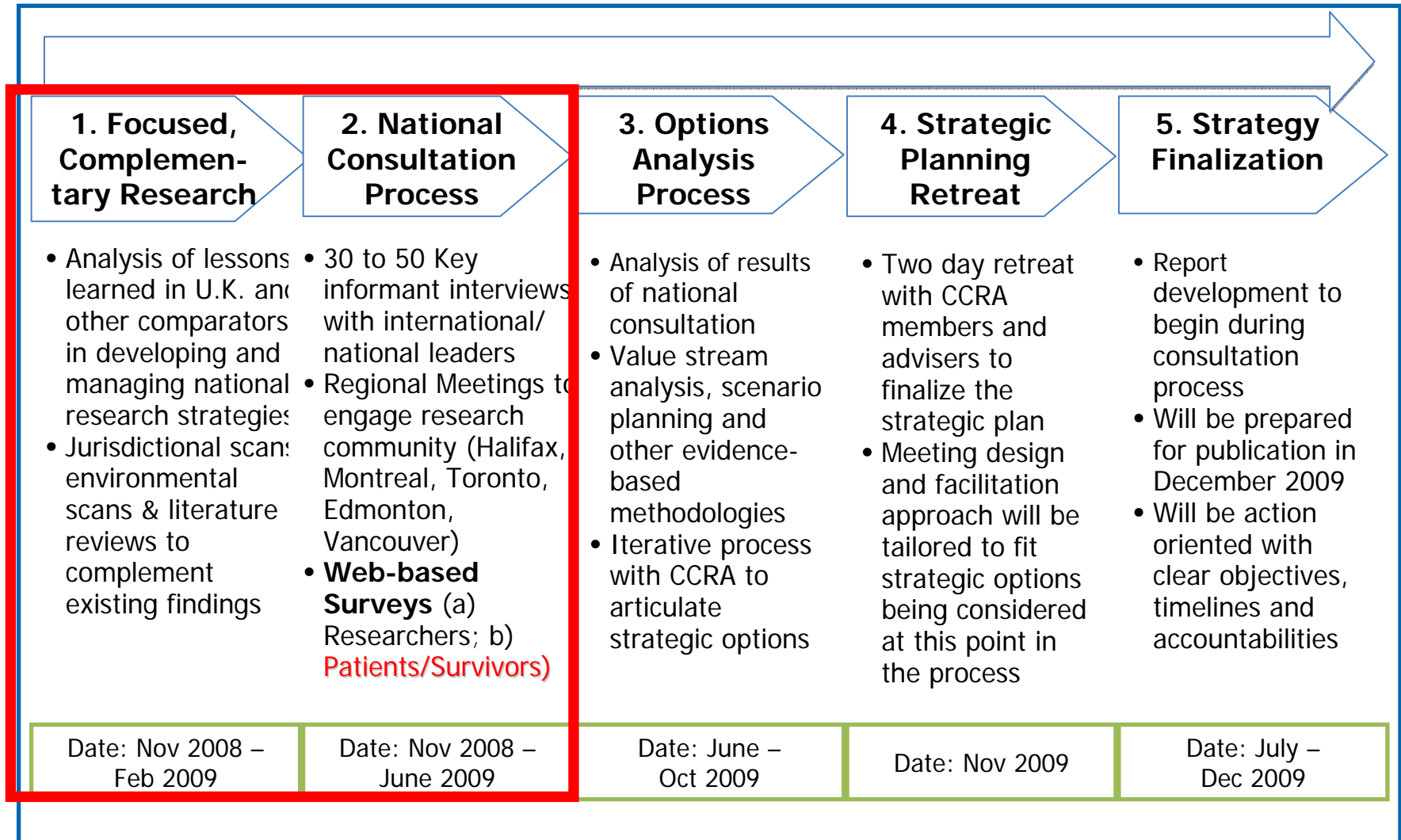
Summary of deliverables at end of Year 3 (by March 2011)

Action	Lead Organisation
The infrastructure needs for community-based intervention trials will have been determined and implementation begun	NCRI Secretariat initially
Feasibility studies for lung cancer screening will have been completed and, if appropriate, a pilot phase will be in process	National Institute for Health Research, Health Technology Assessment
Initiatives in early diagnosis and survivorship will be well underway	Cancer Research UK (early diagnosis)/ Macmillan Cancer Support (survivorship)
The impact of 3 years of funding for the Prostate Cancer Collaboratives will have been assessed and further needs in the field considered	Medical Research Council/ NCRI Secretariat
The quinquennial review of the Supportive and Palliative Care (SuPaC) Collaboratives will have been completed and funding renewed if appropriate	Marie Curie Cancer Care
NCRI will have reviewed the possible need to extend the coordination of imaging research beyond PET, and initiated any appropriate action	NCRI Secretariat
Baseline metrics for ECMCs will have been gathered, covering numbers of trials, patients enrolled, samples collected etc. Objectives will have been set and review criteria agreed	ECMC Secretariat
Mechanisms to promote clinical trials in rarer cancers and smaller patient groups will be in implementation	National Cancer Research Network
The proportion of patients being entered into randomised clinical trials will have increased to 7.5%	National Cancer Research Network
ONIX will enable cancer researchers to identify and access a variety of data sources and services through a single portal	NCRI Informatics Initiative
One or more NCIN study groups for investigator-led research will have been set up and research studies will be starting	National Cancer Intelligence Network
Workforce issues will have been mapped and areas for NCRI action identified	NCRI Secretariat
NCRI will have taken stock of its relationships with industry and agreed any new strategic actions appropriate	NCRI Secretariat
NCRI will have begun to collect a library of evaluation materials	NCRI Secretariat

CCRA strategic planning: Began fall 2008

- *Goal: Through enhanced collaboration and coordination, Canada's major cancer research funding organizations can leverage existing research funds to achieve our collective goals and objectives faster and more efficiently.*
- The Pan-Canadian Cancer Research Strategy will:
 - Provide a framework to guide cancer research investment in Canada
 - Accelerate discoveries that mitigate the burden of cancer in Canada
 - Highlight gaps and opportunities for new collaborations
 - Provide a vision for Canadian cancer research achievements over the next five years

Planning progress to date



Examples of questions we are asking....

- What is the *optimum balance* between research funds awarded in open investigator-initiated competition *versus* targeted (strategic) initiatives?
- What is the *optimum distribution of funding* across types of cancer and types of research (from biology through to health services; from melanomas to brain tumours)?
- *Who should have input* into setting Canada's cancer research priorities (e.g., survivors, funders, major donors, researchers)?
- What are the *most promising emerging areas or trends* in cancer research that, with enhanced investment, could lead to the most significant impact on cancer control?

Some of what we are learning so far....

- Science:
 - Most common priorities for new investment found in strategic plans in Canada and internationally are:
 - Translational research
 - Health Services research
 - Early detection
 - Survivorship
 - Treatment
 - What is the BIG question? Lots of answers! e.g.
 - Focus on pancreatic cancer
 - Early detection
 - Personalized medicine/targeted therapies
 - Population based questions

Some of what we are learning so far....

- Approach to Funding:
 - There is no consensus on the right “balance” between open investigator-initiated and targeted research competitions
 - With recent investments in infrastructure (e.g. CF)) and new salary awards to support more researchers, there is no longer enough funding for projects (the actual science)
 - Process of application of same project to multiple agencies needs to be examined: can we be simpler, more efficient and save \$\$ for science?
- Canada’s “edge”
 - Our publicly funded health care system gives **high expectation** for our output of *clinical trials* and *population studies*: but there are barriers for doing both that have arisen.

Why is creating a pan-Canadian plan important?

- To address *critical gaps in cancer research and identify opportunities for partnership and collaboration* among CCRA members and other key stakeholders.
- By working together, pooling resources, and tackling the overarching research issues that affect cancer control and care in all provinces and territories, it is our hope that *CCRA will accelerate the scientific discoveries that will mitigate the burden of cancer in Canada.*

For more information - and how you can help

- **Visit CCRA booth at the Marketplace and talk with**
Stuart Edmonds (Executive Director CCRA)
Kim Badovinac (Manager of CCRA Survey)
Paula Robson (PI: Partnership for Tomorrow project (cohort study))
Mary O'Neill (Participant: Partnership for Tomorrow project)
- **Give your input!! Patient/survivor SURVEY is at 3 locations:**

CCRA

http://www.ccra-acrc.ca/default_en.htm (English)

http://www.ccra-acrc.ca/default_fr.htm (French)

The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer

http://www.partnershipagainstcancer.ca/ccra_survey (English)

<http://www.partnershipagainstcancer.ca/fr/node/512> (French)

The Canadian Cancer Society

http://www.cancer.ca/Canada-wide.aspx?sc_lang=en (follow links)

Survey closes July 10 - please pass on this invitation!

THANK-YOU for your attention!