The scientific framework for pancreatic cancer was built upon a report that the NCI released in June 2013 called “Pancreatic Cancer: Scanning the Horizon for Focused Interventions.” The Horizon Scan report proposed four specific initiatives for advancing pancreatic cancer research. The framework expands on these recommendations by providing specific suggestions for moving forward for each one. Over the last three years since the Framework was first released, the NCI has made important progress on the four key recommendations detailed below and has taken specific steps toward implementing them.

**UNDERSTANDING THE BIOLOGICAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PancreATIC CANCER AND DIABETES**

The NCI and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), with added support from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, sponsored a meeting in June 2013 that gave rise to a request for grant applications (RFA) to create a new research consortium. The NCI and NIDDK created the Consortium to Study Chronic Pancreatitis, Diabetes and Pancreatic Cancer (CPDPC) and in September 2015, 10 clinical centers were selected and approved for funding. The CPDPC is meeting regularly, and one of their major projects is the development of a cohort of new-onset diabetics for the purpose of validating assays for the early detection of pancreatic cancer.

**EVALUATING SCREENING PROTOCOLS FOR BIOMARKERS FOR EARLY DETECTION**

In June 2015, the NCI issued a Program Announcement inviting multidisciplinary teams to submit proposals aimed at establishing the Pancreatic Cancer Detection Consortium to improve early detection and characterization of precursor lesions. Applications are due between November 2015 and April 2018, and the first round of recipients have been announced. The NCI held a meeting in December 2016 to coordinate efforts between several NIH programs designed to identify biomarkers for the early detection of pancreatic cancer.

**STUDYING NEW STRATEGIES IN IMMUNOTHERAPY**

In December 2016, the NCI released a Request for Applications to support a consortium of up to five institutions to work collaboratively to advance this field and conduct clinical and pre-clinical research to identify new immunotherapies for the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

**DEVELOPING NEW TREATMENT APPROACHES THAT INTERFERE WITH RAS ONCOGENE-DEPENDENT SIGNALING PATHWAYS**

In 2013, the NCI launched the RAS Initiative with significant funding attached. The project has the potential to increase the survival rate for pancreatic cancer as well as for other forms of cancer that are driven by RAS. The initiative has boosted scientific momentum and collaboration. Since 2015, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has partnered with the NCI Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, the hub of the RAS Initiative, to award fellowships to outstanding young scientists who are studying KRAS in pancreatic cancer. As part of this unique public-private partnership, our grantees travel to Frederick to conduct novel KRAS research, gaining unparalleled mentorship from experts and training on cutting-edge technologies.