Fred Hutch
Cancer Center
Beyond
50

Beyond 50

Look Beyond With Us

Most nonprofits launch big fundraising campaigns quietly, inviting the wider community to join only as they near the finish line. But at Fred Hutch Cancer Center, we know that when you or someone you care about is facing cancer or another disease, you want to take action and be part of the solution. That's why we launched the Campaign for Fred Hutch by inviting our community to join us. Together, we are looking beyond what's possible today — toward a new era of world-changing discoveries.

As we mark our 50th anniversary in 2025 and envision the future of cancer care and cures, we are building on the contributions of researchers, clinicians, patients, and supporters who came before us. Their hard work, ingenuity, and generosity fueled decades of progress. Now Fred Hutch is positioned to redefine cancer and infectious disease for the next generation to ensure that no one has to endure their life-altering impact.

The Campaign for Fred Hutch will raise $3 billion to radically increase the pace and scale of innovation. The size of our goal matches the magnitude of our ambition, and achieving it will take all of us — individuals, families, patients, survivors, corporations, leaders, and advocates from all backgrounds. Every gift, every donor, makes a tremendous difference.

Thank you for joining us.

Thomas J. Lynch Jr., MD
President and Director
Raisbeck Endowed Chair

Everyone who supports Fred Hutch has a unique motivation. Some are moved by a loved one's cancer experience, others by a passion for science, the drive for health equity, the dream of a healthier world for our children and grandchildren, or another important reason. Collectively, these reasons power our pursuit. No matter what connects you to our mission, there's a role for you in our campaign.

Your Reason Is Our Pursuit

We want to know what questions you care about most so we can work together to ensure your gift has the impact you want it to have.

One Brother's Reason

▲ Brothers Bill (left) and Fred Hutchinson with members of their growing families.

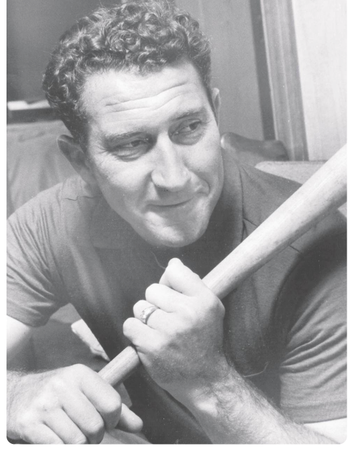
When Fred Hutchinson, a revered Major League Baseball player and manager, died of cancer in 1965 at the age of 45, his brother turned grief into action.

Bill Hutchinson, MD, a trailblazing surgeon and scientist, advocated for more than a decade — recruiting allies, raising funds, and navigating bureaucratic mazes — to create a focal point for cancer research in the Pacific Northwest. Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center opened in September 1975.

By then, public alarm about cancer's impact had fueled passage of the National Cancer Act of 1971, which boosted funding and created a national infrastructure for a "war on cancer." The law authorized the National Cancer Institute to create a system of 15 centers to develop new and better approaches to preventing, diagnosing, and treating cancer. These were to be anchors of the national cancer research effort — and Fred Hutch was one of the first.

Dr. Hutchinson aimed to create something new: a research environment that galvanized curiosity-driven science, encouraged collaborations across disciplines, and centered connections between scientists, providers, and patients to drive research from the lab to the clinic.

The environment was ideal for E. Donnall Thomas, MD, who Dr. Hutchinson recruited to lead clinical research. Forward-thinking scientists and clinicians flocked here to help Dr. Thomas prove a controversial theory: that it's possible to cure advanced leukemia by replacing a patient's bone marrow with marrow from a healthy donor. Each new team member brought a unique expertise — in immunology, nutrition, nursing, infection control, and other disciplines — and together, they shattered doctrine and took a radical idea all the way from concept to cure.



◀ Fred "Hutch" Hutchinson was a Major League Baseball pitcher and manager whose career was cut short by cancer.

Bone marrow transplantation boosted survival rates for some leukemias from zero to more than 90%. People who had run out of options traveled to Seattle, hoping against hope for a cure — and many continue to thrive a half-century later. Dr. Thomas received the 1990 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine — the first of three Nobel Prizes held by our faculty members. His breakthrough, now used to treat more than 100 diseases, has saved more than a million lives worldwide.

Bone marrow transplantation also generated the first proof that the immune system could eliminate cancer, an insight our scientists and clinicians built on to develop cellular immunotherapy, living drugs made from patients' own immune cells. Today, we're finding and using increasingly personalized precision oncology approaches for more cancers and more people.

While cancer has always been personal, now we know that overcoming it is too.

▼ Bill Hutchinson, flanked by U.S. Senator Warren Magnuson and his wife, Jermaine, break ground for Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center's first building in 1973.

A Passion for Discovery

Science doesn't move in a straight line. Breakthroughs don't happen on a set schedule. Every new discovery adds a layer to the foundation of knowledge, science building on science, until forces come together to generate extraordinary leaps.

At Fred Hutch, we are powering bigger, quicker leaps. We have to — because our loved ones, friends, coworkers, and neighbors are living with cancer and its aftermath. Because we all face the threat and consequences of infectious disease. Because we've lost too many people already and we don't have time to wait.

We have the experience and vision to propel the leading edge of science, translate discoveries into breakthroughs, and dismantle barriers that block access to the most effective prevention, detection, and treatment options.

HOW ARE WE SPEEDING THE CYCLE OF DISCOVERY?

By nurturing collaborations among scientists, clinicians, and patients.

By answering questions no one else has asked.

By building trust in science.

By pushing the limits of cutting-edge technologies and creating new ones.

By developing a workforce that reflects the diversity of the communities we serve.

By listening to you — and working, together, to create the impact you want to have.

By accelerating the path of ideas from bench to bedside and getting them out into the world.

By ensuring progress in one area seeds advances in others.

By training the next generation of researchers and clinicians.

Our Vision

Fred Hutch is a magnet for top scientists and clinicians who are driven to explore human biology, in all its immense complexity, to pursue scientific breakthroughs and healthier lives for every person in every community.

Six decades after Fred Hutchinson's death, the world's understanding of cancer, and the tools available to prevent, detect, and treat it, have expanded exponentially, thanks in part to ideas and research born here. Our science and the community that supports it have been pivotal to extraordinary changes that have driven down the overall rate of U.S. cancer deaths by more than 30%.

But we still have a long way to go.

As we've gained the ability to look deeply into the molecular machinery of our bodies, we've discovered that every cancer is different: An individual's risk, and how they respond to treatment, depend on interactions among a breathtaking number of variables — everything from how genes are regulated to how exercise habits change physiology and metabolism. Every answer generates new questions. Together, our experts are harnessing the enormous opportunities this complexity offers to find new approaches, especially for solid tumors, which make up nearly 90% of cancers diagnosed in the U.S. each year.

While we work to cure cancer, Fred Hutch is also focused on preventing it: We are identifying genetic vulnerabilities, exploring the role of the microbiome, stopping viruses that cause cancer, addressing health inequities, and conducting large-scale population-based studies to understand the risks facing communities, families, and individuals.

This is a moment of stunning possibility. With new technologies, scientists, clinicians, and patients are mapping unexplored facets of health and disease. Researchers are sharing findings in real time, speeding innovation. And the international scientific sprint to end the COVID-19 pandemic — an effort Fred Hutch helped lead — reminded us that, with enough resources and focus, we can solve urgent scientific problems in record time.

The Campaign for Fred Hutch — and this community — are essential to seizing the momentum and creating new possibilities. Together, we have an opportunity to redefine cancer in the coming decade.

Changing the Definition of What's Possible

What will $3 billion make possible? In a word, more. More of the strategic thinking and creative approaches that have catalyzed meaningful progress for nearly 50 years — and that will ignite world-changing discoveries in the next decade.

More clinical trials, more precision and cellular therapies, more genetic sequencing, and more data science innovation so we can learn from our patients and translate those lessons from the lab to the clinic to the marketplace. More opportunities for patients to participate in research. More faculty members at every career stage, bringing more ideas to life. More lab space and state-of-the-art technologies. More early-stage research to develop proof of concept. More supportive services for patients and families. More education programs to train the next generation. More equitable access to cancer prevention and treatment. More promising new ideas with the potential to prevent and eliminate cancer and infectious disease.

It will take support — from the federal government, private industry, foundations, and, especially, from community partners and individuals. We are proud of our track record of funding from the National Institutes of Health, which reflects the quality of our research and the qualities our researchers bring to their work. But most projects don't receive federal funding: In 2023, the National Cancer Institute funded just 14% of the competitive grant applications it received, favoring proven concepts over new ideas. Commercial partnerships are also critical, but even the most promising ideas can take years to develop.

In contrast, support from our donor community is agile, allowing us to seize opportunities as soon as we see them. You foster ideas in their infancy, giving researchers time to develop proof of concept to attract larger funders. You enable us to move faster, answer emerging questions, develop new technologies, and push the boundaries of fundamental science. You bring educational and equity initiatives to life and provide services to support patients and families. As we move beyond Fred Hutch's 50th anniversary, philanthropic gifts will play a uniquely powerful role in changing the definition of what's possible.

Our $3 billion campaign will support:

Talent and research

$1.2 billion

to recruit and retain faculty, pursue inventive ideas that can lead to breakthroughs, and expand the breadth and depth of clinical trials available to patients.

Endowment

$500 million

to grow our endowment by 300% to ensure our long-term sustainability.

Our campaign goal is audacious — and so are our *ambitions.*

Enabling research environment

$700 million

to provide the space, resources, and facilities our researchers and clinicians need to make new discoveries that transform care.

Programs, patients, and greatest needs

$600 million

to quickly respond to new opportunities, train new generations of research and clinical leaders, and provide essential support services to patients.

Levers for Change

Whatever you choose to support — a specific disease or faculty member, an emerging idea, the next generation of scientists — you will flip a lever for change that connects to an entire suite of interlocked scientific strategies. Our success depends on our ability to simultaneously:

Fuel innovative ideas, discoveries, and partnerships

Enable scientists and clinicians to pursue their boldest ideas, harness data and AI, and collaborate across disciplines to drive faster progress. Expand clinical trials to give every patient the opportunity to participate in research.

Bring new strengths to existing strengths

Add faculty members across all scientific areas while retaining our world-leading talent. Create more training opportunities for the next generation of researchers and clinicians, especially those from groups that are underrepresented in science.

Grow our leading-edge patient programs

Provide the best experience for patients and their caretakers by increasing access to care, expanding supportive services, and deepening research designed to reduce the symptoms and stress of cancer.

Increase equity to improve outcomes for everyone

Strengthen and grow collaborations among Black, Latino, Indigenous, and other communities disproportionately affected by cancer and other diseases, and scale sustainable approaches to improve access and outcomes for everyone.

Build next-generation programs, facilities, and spaces

Support patients with environments that assist in their treatment and healing, and provide an environment for scientists that serves as a springboard for innovation and discovery.

Invest in long-term sustainability

Triple our endowment to support our clinical and research enterprises, bolster our long-term stability, and ensure our ability to withstand whatever economic volatility arises in the U.S. and around the world.

Primed for *World-Changing* Discoveries

Together, we will follow where the science leads and continuously improve a unique ecosystem — the right people in the right place with the right support — that is primed for world-changing discoveries. For 50 years, Fred Hutch has been creating conditions that enable our passionate, dedicated teams to make revolutionary advances: Our history is our playbook for the future.

As we head into our second half-century of discovery, care, and cures, we will lean into partnerships with patients and families, staff and providers, future scientists, communities, and the wider world. We know that when we put people at the center of science — when we hear and amplify the very human reasons why we all care so much about a healthier future — we will transform ourselves and our world.

Join us.

Photos by Cover: SEASTOCK | Getty Images.
Inside cover: Matt Nugent.
pp. 4–5: Hutchinson family archive.
pp. 6–7: Fred Hutch file photo.
pp. 8, 10, 12, 14: Robert Hood | Fred Hutch News Service.
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