



**Office of the Director**

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April 1, 2019

Hon. Steve Englebright  
Member of Assembly  
Legislative Office Building, Room 621  
Albany, New York 12247

Dear Assemblyman Englebright:

I am writing on behalf of the entire staff and members of the Stony Brook Cancer Center to express our deep gratitude for obtaining \$670,000 in funding to support our application for National Cancer Institute (NCI) designation.

This support is critical to help us in our attempts at developing a premier Cancer Center on Long Island, with the goal of joining the "elite of the elite" as a NCI-designated Cancer Center. This specific designation will indicate to all that we have developed an outstanding set of research programs that have a major impact on how we care for patients with cancer (what we call from bench to bedside). This advances not only cancer research, but also provides Long Islanders with cutting edge clinical evaluations, diagnostics, and therapeutics.

An NCI-Cancer Center works in conjunction with community oncologists who can deliver usual care, with us focusing on the difficult and advanced cases that require leaders in the specific areas. Indeed, we have assembled outstanding teams of scientists (more than 100 faculty and 300 students, post doctoral fellows and research assistants) and clinicians (more than 50) to advance care for patients with complicated breast, lung, prostate, and most other cancer types, including childhood cancer and leukemia and patients requiring stem cell transplantation. As you know, we are THE referral center for the last three mentioned conditions on Long Island.

As we discussed, NCI representatives became really excited about our Cancer Center once they realized that we are unique to New York State and even nationally in the way we have brought Engineering, Math, Physics, and Chemistry to join forces with us in cancer research and cancer medicine.

On the research side, our investigators conduct nationally and internationally recognized and peer reviewed cancer research. They bring in to Long Island more than \$20-25M in extramural funding every year. This also has high economic value (variously estimated at between 3-9 fold impact).



Also, as we discussed, we have been reaching out to community leaders (e.g. Walk for Beauty, Ward Melville Heritage Society and others) who are ardent supporters of our efforts.

Thank you again for your support of Stony Brook Medicine Cancer Center's continued success in delivering the best cancer care and research to the residents of Suffolk and Nassau Counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yusuf A. Hannun', written in a cursive style.

Yusuf A. Hannun, MD  
Director, Stony Brook Cancer Center  
Vice Dean for Cancer Medicine  
Joel Kenny Professor in Cancer Research