

## A NOTE FROM OUR CHAIR

- Nancy Mishkin -

*“The impact of donor dollars is undeniable. The power to change the cancer landscape is in your hands, and so is the cure.”*



**W**elcome to the Donor Issue of Tower Magazine. If you are reading this, you are very likely already a donor to this wonderful organization so please accept my sincerest gratitude for your generosity.

There are things in life that money can't buy such as respect, character, trust, and integrity. But what money CAN do, is lead the way to the CURE. Simply put, money is the key to unlocking the cancer puzzle. Money is the lifeblood of all research and keeps brilliant scientists at the bench. You may ask, how do I know this? **I know this because money is already making a difference.** People are surviving cancer and living longer and better lives. Some types of cancer can be cured while others have less toxic treatments...progress is being made.

But is it reasonable to expect we can ever “cure cancer,” which has afflicted humans throughout recorded history and is now the number-two cause of death in this country? **Top minds in cancer research suggest that, yes, it's entirely possible.** In some cases, we already have.

- Since 1991, there have been **2.1 million fewer cancer deaths** as a result of two decades of consistent declines in cancer rates.

- There are over 15 million people alive today in the United States alone who have survived cancer. In fact, more than **500 lives are being saved each day** that would have otherwise been lost to cancer.

- Since 1975 cancer incidence rates **in children and adolescents** have increased slightly by 0.6% per year while **cancer death rates have decreased by more than half.**

- Five-year survival rates in Prostate, Testicular, Breast, Thyroid and Melanoma are **all over 90%.**

With all this progress, why have we yet to find the cure? The simple answer is because it's hard, very very hard. Cancer is not a single disease, it is actually hundreds, or possibly thousands, of diseases. Each type of cancer can be many, even dozens, of different diseases in itself. Each tumor can be many diseases that are constantly evolving both in response to the environment in which the cancer cells grow and to treatments that are thrown at them. Cancer is tough.

That said, never before have we had the tools that we have now to study the biology of cancer. Unfortunately, less than 1 out of 5 grant requests are funded by the federal government, and foundations like Tower struggle to keep up with requests as well. Just imagine what would happen if we could fund every viable, scientifically sound hypothesis. The impact of donor dollars is undeniable. The power to change the cancer landscape is in your hands and so is the cure.

Thank you for your past support of Tower Cancer Research Foundation. We look forward to a long and productive relationship.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Mishkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.