JOHNS HOPKINS BLOOMBERG SCHOOL of PUBLIC HEALTH

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Memorandum

To: Trialists

Fr: Curtis Meinert

Re: What we die from versus who we study

     The first three panels in the table below are the U.S. leading causes of death in 2020. The last two panels are counts of studies, trials, observational studies, and expanded access studies registered on CT.gov from inception through 4 February 2023. The leading causes of death are from Farida B. Ahmad and Robert N. Anderson; JAMA. 2021 May 11; 325(18): 1829–1830. doi: 10.1001/jama.2021.5469

	2020 US mortality		CT.gov as of 4 Feb 2023	
	No.	%	No.	%
All US deaths	3,358,814		440,875	
Heart disease	690,882	20.57%	23,509	5.33%
Cancer	598,932	17.83%	94,711	21.48%
COVID-19	345,323	10.28%	8,873	2.01%
Unintentional injury	192,176	5.72%	10	0.00%
Stroke	159,050	4.74%	7,518	1.71%
Chronic lower respiratory diseases	151,637	4.51%	17	0.00%
Alzheimer disease	133,382	3.97%	3,036	0.69%
Diabetes	101,106	3.01%	19,035	4.32%
Influenza and pneumonia	53,495	1.59%	85	0.02%
Kidney disease	52,260	1.56%	10,643	2.41%
Suicide	44,834	1.33%	790	0.18%
	2,523,077	**75.12%**	**168,227**	**38.17**

Searches in CT.gov are expanded to include related conditions. For example, the search for "cancer" is expanded to include neoplasm, tumor, malignancy, and oncology and for heart disease expanded to include cardiac disease, cardiopathies, and cardiac disorder among others.

The 2020 deaths account for 75% of all U.S. 2020 deaths compared to 38% of registered studies. Cancer studies out number heart disease studies 4 to 1, consistent with NIH 2020 funding; 6.4 billion dollars for the NCI compared to 3.6 billion dollars for the NHLBI.