



The CAM Portfolio Analysis Process

How much money does NCI spend on CAM research each year? This is one of the questions most frequently posed to OCCAM. Researchers, cancer patient advocates, proponents of CAM, and Congress are interested in the answer, and OCCAM is responsible for gathering the data needed to report the total CAM expenditures budget figure each year.

It is a common misconception that OCCAM manages all of the CAM projects for NCI. The vast majority of CAM projects are managed by other programs and laboratories throughout the Institute. After the close of the fiscal year, NCI's Division of Extramural Activities provides OCCAM with a list of funded grants and cooperative agreements that were coded as containing some component of CAM research. Similarly, NCI's two intramural components, CCR and DCEG, provide lists of their potentially relevant projects. Also, a list of contracts identified as potentially containing CAM research is provided. OCCAM reviews each project to confirm those projects which are accurately classified as CAM research. OCCAM also classifies each CAM project into a sub category to further define the purpose of the research.

NCI's total CAM expenditure figure includes money awarded for intramural projects (projects conducted within NIH facilities and labs), extramural grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and supplements. It is important to note that the reported figure for total NCI CAM expenditures for a fiscal year does not include projects for which NCI is not the primary funder.