

# MAURY STRAUSS DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC LECTURE

Presented by the Fralin Biomedical Research Institute at VTC



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## *In Person Lecture: Cancer Control in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century With Special Attention to Disparities in Health*

On December 23, 1971, President Richard Nixon signed the National Cancer Act – historic legislation aimed at overcoming one of our most dreaded diseases. It is often referred to as the nation declaring war on cancer. The law infused unprecedented financial support into cancer research (basic and clinical). The past fifty years have led to a change in our understanding of cancer. We have moved from a 19<sup>th</sup> century definition of cancer based on histology to a 21<sup>st</sup> century definition based on histology and genomics. Also of import, the law called for a cancer control program. A key part of which was a surveillance system that would establish and manage a program to determine cancer incidence, mortality, survival, and study patterns of cancer care. The surveillance program has documented the successes and failures of the National Cancer Act and stimulated the academic field of cancer epidemiology. The effort to control cancer has led to a 31 percent reduction in age-adjusted cancer death rate from 1991 to 2018. This decline is due to prevention (risk reduction), appropriate screening, diagnosis, and treatment. But all have not benefited equally. An efficient health system could have caused an even greater decline. Research suggests that more than 20 percent of the 600,000 cancer deaths per year are avertable in an efficient healthcare system. The National Cancer Act defined a number of questions pertinent to the control of cancer. Perhaps the most important is: "How can we provide adequate, high-quality care, to all Americans?"

THURSDAY, SEPT. 9 at 5:30 p.m.

Room M203, 2 Riverside Circle. Registration required for in person attendance at <https://aimsbbis.vt.edu/brawley-lecture>. Masks and must be worn. Watch live at <https://viriniatech.zoom.us/j/89350646999> or <https://fbri.vtc.vt.edu/events/live-webcast.html>.



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