

Timeline of Medical Advancement

The path from breakthrough discovery at the bench to treatment at the bedside takes time. It is impossible to predict which pieces of the scientific puzzle will fit together or how long it will take to complete. In the coming years and decades, we will reap the rewards of the doubling of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget.

1909: Poliovirus identified.



1955: Polio vaccine.

1913: Cholesterol discovered to cause atherosclerosis, leading to heart disease.



1987: Lipitor, the first statin, a cholesterol lowering drug.

1933: Human influenza virus identified.



1999: Zanamivir, first anti-flu medication.

1955: Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) identified.



1975: Captopril, ACE-inhibitor, to treat high blood pressure.

1959: Surfactant identified as the missing component in babies dying of respiratory distress syndrome (RDS).



1990: Exosurf, first artificial surfactant.

1960: Genetic abnormality associated with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML) is discovered.



2001: Gleevec, a drug based on genetic abnormality, is approved to treat CML.

But if you don't plant the seeds, you can't expect a harvest. The NIH research of today will be the cures of tomorrow.