

Then, Now, Imagine...

Our nation's investment in research saves lives, combats disability, and protects against population health threats. THEN... We had disease. NOW... We have hope. IMAGINE... Cures. For a PDF of the Then, Now Imagine series, [click here](#).

Cystic Fibrosis

Then » Cystic fibrosis (CF), an inherited disease of the mucus and sweat glands, had a median survival rate of 10 years in the 1960s.

Now » Early screening, powerful new antibiotics and advancements in lung transplants have almost quadrupled the life expectancy and improved quality of those with CF.

Imagine » Finding a cure.

Heart Disease

Then » It was not uncommon for Americans to die of heart attacks in their 50s or 60s.

Now » Thanks to advancements in medical technology like the stents and balloons used in angioplasty, heart disease fatalities have been cut by 57% over the past 3 decades.

Imagine » Eliminating premature deaths due to heart disease.

Alzheimer's Disease

Then » Progressive, unstoppable, and irreversible problems with memory, thinking, communication, and behavior were widely but inaccurately considered a normal part of aging.

Now » Alzheimer's disease is recognized as a discrete health condition and basic research is fueling new drugs and other interventions for risk-reduction, prevention, detection, diagnosis, treatment, and cure.

Imagine » Aging and cognitively thriving without the threat of dementia.

HIV/ AIDS

Then » 130,000 new cases of HIV infection occurred annually during the peak of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, and most cases were fatal.

Now » The development of antiretroviral treatments has slowed the progression of the disease in infected individuals and has brought the incidence rate to 50,000 new cases annually.

Imagine » A universal HIV vaccine and complete eradication of HIV/AIDS.