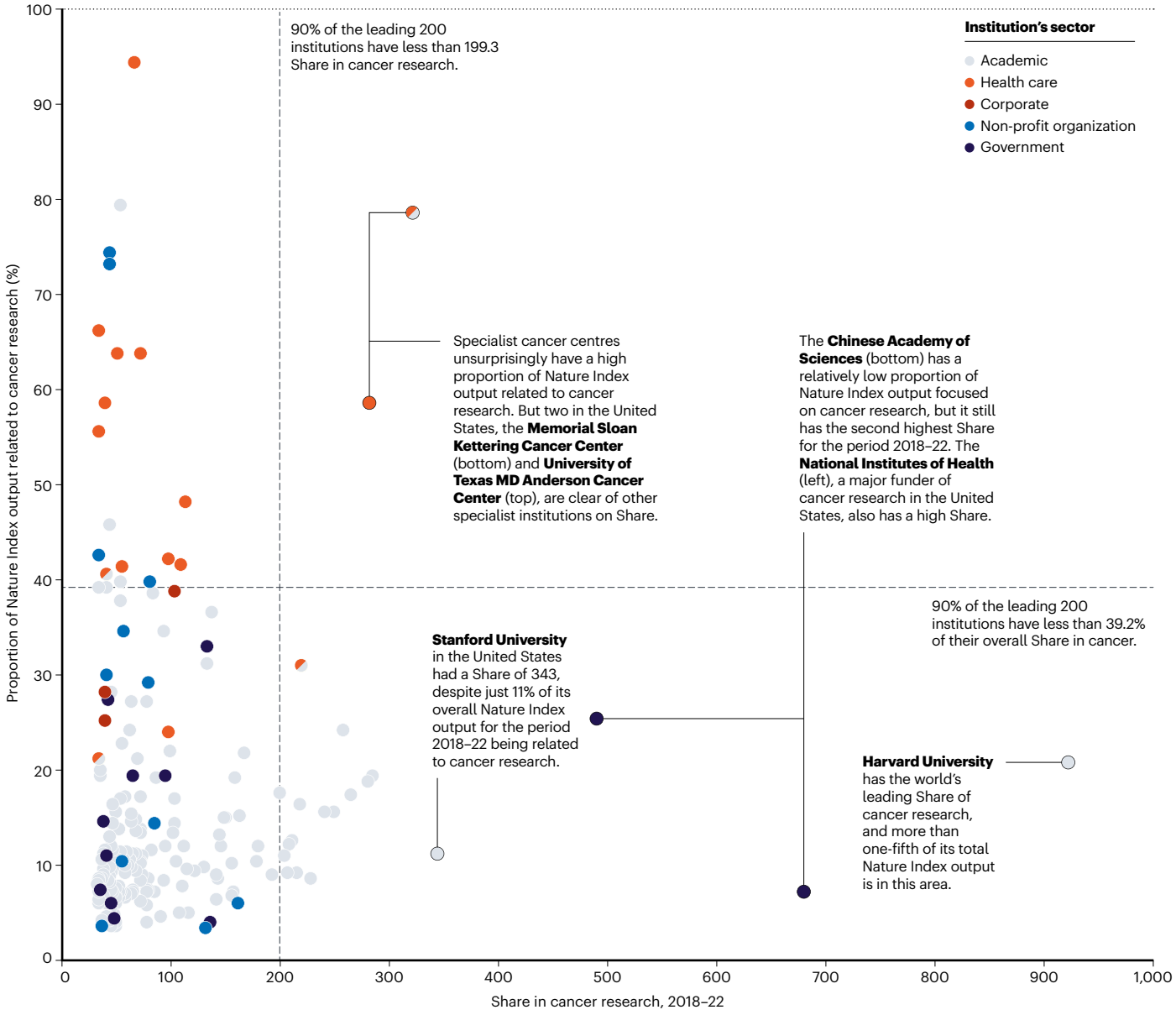
Centre stage

Cancer research attracts billions of dollars of funding every year from governments, charities and other institutions. This helps to establish the topic as a cornerstone of scientific activity in many countries, especially the United States. **Data analysis by Bo Wu. Infographic by Simon Baker, Bec Crew and Tanner Maxwell.**

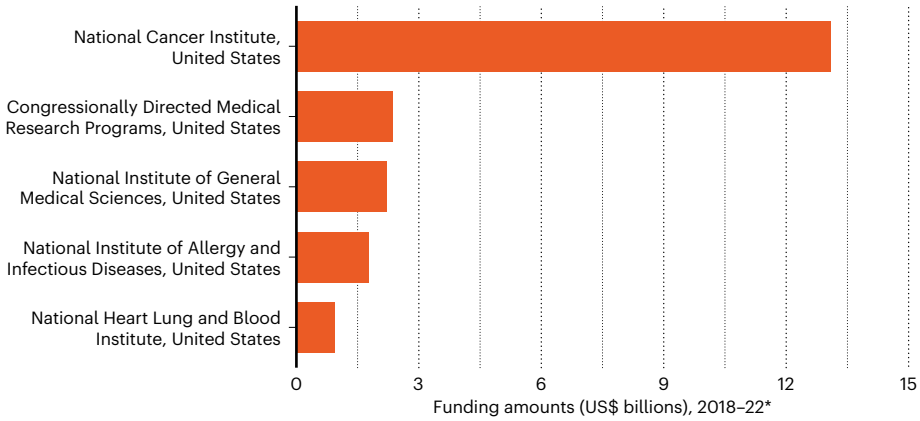
SPECIAL FOCUS

Cancer research represents a large slice of overall research output in the Nature Index for many institutions, although this does not always translate to a high Share in this topic. This is shown by this chart, which plots Share against the proportion of an institution's Nature Index output represented by cancer research for the leading 200 institutions in the topic.



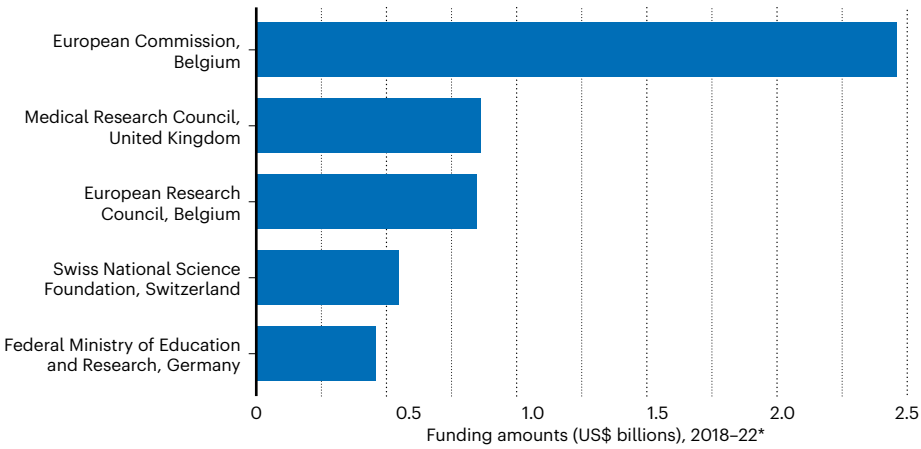
NORTH AMERICAN GIANT

With 10,280 grants worth a total of US$13.1 billion awarded in 2018–22, the US National Cancer Institute (NCI) dwarfs all other major North American funders of cancer research. Among the 27 institutes and centres of the US National Institutes of Health, the NCI is the largest, with a federally allocated budget of $7.3 billion for 2023, up $408 million on last year.



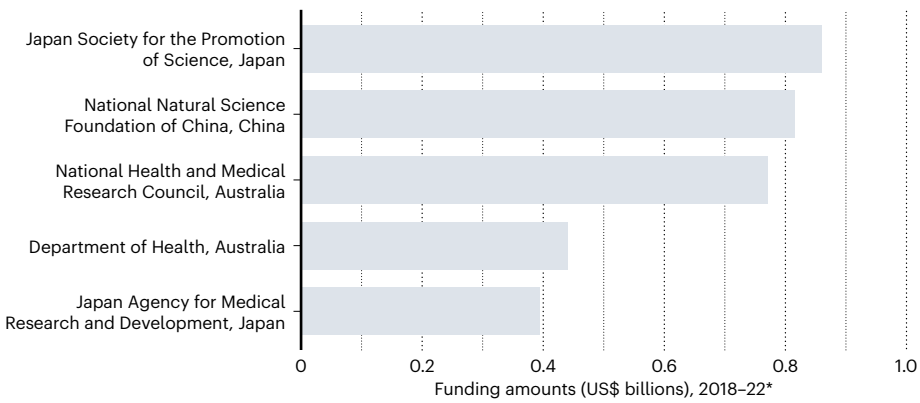
EUROPE'S KEY SPENDERS

The European Commission, which invests in science through the European Union's 'Horizon' funding programmes, allocated almost 1,300 cancer research grants from 2018 to 2022, totalling $2.5 billion, according to Dimensions data. The European Research Council, another beneficiary of Horizon money, funded grants worth around $850 million.



ASIA-PACIFIC SPREAD

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science allocated the most money for cancer research from 2018 to 2022 among Asia-Pacific funders listed in the Dimensions database. Its 15,665 grants were worth a total of around $860 million. The National Natural Science Foundation of China was close behind, distributing 11,910 grants worth about $810 million.

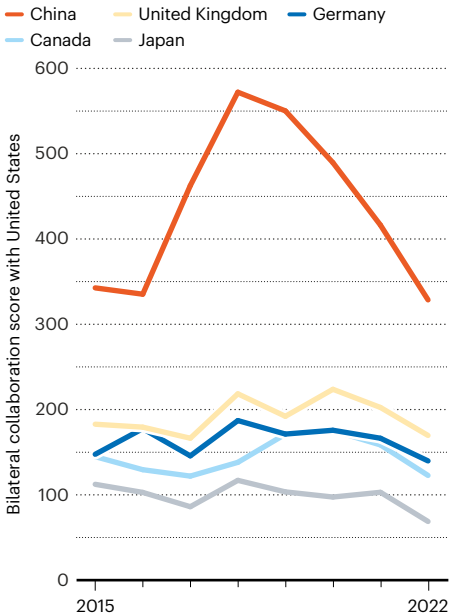


SOURCE: DIMENSIONS, NATURE INDEX

* Note: Not all grant funding data may be captured by Dimensions. See this supplement's online 'Guide to the Nature Index' for more information on the methodology for extracting cancer funding statistics from the database.

LOST CONNECTIONS

The United States is a force in international cancer research: it helps form the five leading bilateral country collaborations in the Nature Index for 2018–22. The United States and China had the most prolific partnership by some margin. But a steep decline since 2018, probably reflecting the impact of rising political tensions and the COVID-19 pandemic, has hugely reduced the gap with other US partnerships.



PROLIFIC PARTNERS

The leading five institutional pairs in cancer-related research for 2018–22 are all domestic partnerships. A rapid growth in collaborative articles between the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Sciences since 2016 is the most striking trend.