

## Congress Warns: Scientists, Health Care Professionals Must Speak Out More for Research



**House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (D-WI), April 28, 2010**

"I've always been rather disappointed that in my many conversations with people in the medical field, with providers in the field, that the discussion, when it turns to health care, so often is focused simply on issues such as reimbursement rates—what are hospitals going to get by way of compensation, what are doctors going to get paid—and that's all very legitimate. But I have personally been struck by the lack of comment or curiosity or, for that matter, the lack of visible political support for added medical research—which, after all, lays the foundation for the product that the practitioners in the health care area have to offer their patients and their

customers. So I think while there are many activists who have for years been pushing for additional funding for the National Institutes of Health, I think in some ways **I've been disappointed by the lack of aggressive activism on the part of so many professionals in the field.**"



**Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA), May 5, 2010**

"The scientific community is going to have to become a lot more politically active in blowing your own horn. The statistics are very impressive as to what the increased funding did for NIH on mortality rates, on strokes, and much progress on many strains of cancer, heart disease and right down the line. I think what you have to do for the congress and for the administration is show how many dollars it saves. ... Appropriations run on politics, on the pressure. You've got a great case, but it hasn't been expressed very well."

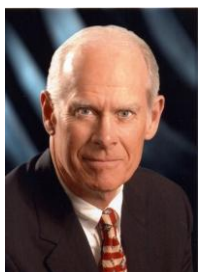


**House Science and Technology Committee Chairman Bart Gordon (D-TN), May 13, 2010 (left)**

"Advocates for science, technology, manufacturing and education—including the 750 organizations that endorsed the America COMPETES Act, and their memberships—need to make their case to Members of the House and Senate why this bill needs to be signed into law."

**Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Appropriations Committee Member (right)**

"The people we really listen to are the voters. Not once have I heard anyone at a public meeting ask me, **'what are you doing for medical research?' Not even from a researcher!**"



**The Honorable John Edward Porter, Chair, Research!America, Member of Congress 1980-2001, "If All You Do Is Vote..." editorial in Science Magazine, September 26, 2008**

"...Volunteer to advise candidates for office on science matters and issues. They'll love it! Offer to serve on their science advisory committee. If they don't have one, tell them you'll create one. Chair it yourself and recruit suitable colleagues. Once your candidate has won the election, offer to continue in your role as a science adviser. Wouldn't it be wonderful if all candidates had science advisers or science advisory committees? They will, if individual scientists step up to the plate.

And, school yourself on the candidates and their positions on science issues. Visit science voter education resources, like [YourCandidatesYourHealth.org](http://YourCandidatesYourHealth.org), which asks all federal candidates to answer questions about their positions on science and health. If your candidates have not responded, call their campaigns and ask them to do so. You have a right to know where they stand."