

SEPTEMBER 2006

The Research

A D V O C A T E

Bringing Research Closer to Home

2006 Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide Debuts Mid-September

Research!America and the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation are preparing to launch a valuable tool for voters nationwide. In mid-September, visitors to www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org will be able to find their candidates' views on medical, health and scientific research, as well as results of a new poll showing what Americans think about those same issues.



The 2006 *Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide* was launched in July with an invitation to all 2006

Congressional candidates to answer 10 questions about research.

The candidates' responses will be presented in an easy-to-use format, searchable by ZIP code, state and candidate name. Although similar efforts have been undertaken by other interest groups over the years, this is the first such national survey of candidates to focus on research.

Research!America continues its outreach to drive even more candidates to submit their views for the voter guide,

Continued on page 5



Sens. Arlen Specter (PA) and Tom Harkin (IA) at a July press conference on H.R. 810

The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act Quick Veto Follows Senate's Slow Action on H.R. 810

In a move that disappointed supporters of stem cell research across the country, **President Bush** used his first veto in more than five years in office for H.R. 810, **The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act**.

Almost immediately after the veto announcement on July 19, the leadership in the House of Representatives scheduled a veto override vote on

H.R. 810. For the second time, the majority voted yes (235-193) to expand federal funding for embryonic stem cell research, but the two-thirds (290) needed for an override was not reached.

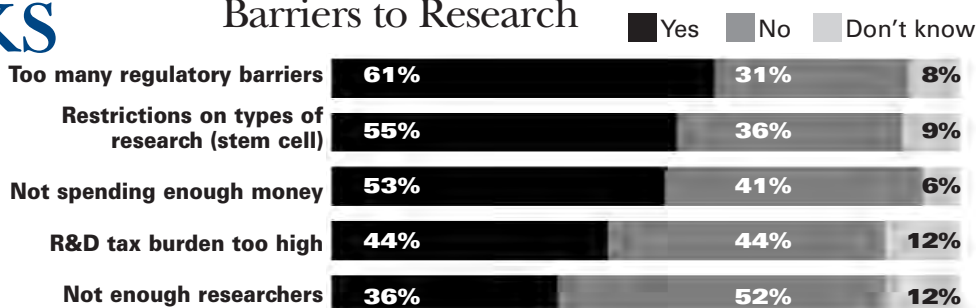
While the Senate's passage of the act, the president's veto and the House's unsuccessful vote to override the veto happened in quick succession, the bill's

Continued on page 4

AMERICA Speaks

Some people believe medical research should be making more progress. Do you feel the following is a reason why we are NOT making more progress in medical research?

Barriers to Research



SOURCE: NATIONAL SURVEY, 2006
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

New ON THE Web

www.researchamerica.org

Candidate responses to our **2006 Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide**, regarding their positions on medical, health and scientific research, will be posted online in mid-September at www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org

Register online: Our Personalized Medicine Forum: From Promise to Practice will be September 19 in Washington, DC, with keynote speaker **Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD**, director, **National Human Genome Research Institute**. Details are at: www.researchamerica.org/personalizedmedicine06

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About Research!America

Research!America is a 501(c)(3), membership-supported, public education and advocacy alliance founded in 1989. Our 500+ member institutions, organizations and businesses represent the voices of more than 125 million Americans who want research to improve health to be a higher national priority. Research!America's public opinion surveys, advocacy programs and publications reach the public and decision makers with messages that support a strong and vibrant research enterprise.

Research!America
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH

Members TAKE Action



Neen Hunt, EdD

The **Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation** is known best for its annual Lasker Awards in basic and clinical research. Founder **Mary Woodard Lasker** initiated the awards 61 years ago to raise public awareness about the role of science in battling the “crippers and killers” of disease and the achievements of brilliant men and women who devote their lives to searching for treatments and cures and to unraveling the mysteries of human biology.

Known as the “First Lady of Medical Research,” Lasker made the case for increased federal funding for medical research by warning, “If you think research is expensive, try disease!”

Foundation President **Neen Hunt, EdD**, said the awards’ history “essentially chronicles the progress of medical research and the key milestones in knowledge and practice that have transformed our understanding and response to the suffering and pain caused by diseases and disabilities.

“We take pride in sustaining the prestige and impeccable reputation of the Lasker Awards as the standard for excellence in medical research,” Hunt said.

The Foundation also funds and publishes scholarly studies of medical research issues, sponsors forums that address challenges to the research enterprise and partners with organizations that communicate the progress of medical science and its promises for improved health.

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation

Mary Woodard Lasker (1901-1994) was one of the country's most celebrated and successful advocates to increase public funding for medical research. She and her husband, Albert Davis Lasker (1880-1952), a pioneer advertising executive, established their foundation in 1942. Its mission is to foster the prevention and treatment of disease and disability by honoring excellence in basic and clinical medical research and public service and through public education.

One such partnership is with Research!America on the **2006 Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide**. “We believe this initiative has the potential to influence the election of officials who have an enlightened understanding of the need to deepen support for medical research,” Hunt said.

The Lasker Foundation also provided founding support through its Funding First mission for the *Investment in Research Saves Lives and Money* fact

sheet series, available on the Foundation and Research!America Web sites. Funding First is committed to building the case for sustained

“If you think research is expensive, try disease!”

— *Mary Woodard Lasker*

national commitment to medical research with key decision makers, the policy community and high-profile leaders in the public and private sectors.

Future plans are to continue to leverage the Lasker name on behalf of medical science and strive for the greatest impact. “We will continue our work to laud the scientists, advocates, science writers, policy makers and citizens who are champions of research and their contributions to improving health and reducing human suffering,” Hunt said.

The 2006 Lasker Award winners will be named September 16 at www.laskerfoundation.org. The invitation-only awards ceremony will be in New York City on September 29. The 2006 awards will include Basic and Clinical Medical Research Awards and a Special Achievement Award.

Opinions: The Stem Cell Veto and Beyond

Newspapers nationwide ran editorials about the president's stem cell research veto. *The Philadelphia Inquirer* was reflective of many: "It leaves in place the silly 2001 Bush restrictions on federal funds for research using embryonic stem cells. So ESC-derived treatments may be hamstrung further. The people they could help? Tough."

The *Chicago Tribune* published a letter from **Mark Rasenick, PhD**, University of Illinois College of Medicine, urging a broader view, beyond the veto: "... funds for research are dwindling. Thousands of projects with great potential are going unfunded, and young scientists are being 'discarded' ... What potential cures are being lost because of this?"

On Talking to Congress

Remarks by **The Honorable John Edward Porter**, former Congressman, now chair of Research!America, were profiled in a publication of the **Friends of Cancer Research**. For research advocates preparing to talk with policymakers, he stressed that messages of progress and hope should be conveyed with clarity and passion, organized around themes of saving lives, saving health care costs, keeping America competitive and creating economic stimulus.

What We Invest in Research

The Scientist quotes Research!America President **Mary Woolley** in a July article discussing whether industry is now funding a greater share of research. Also quoted is **John Ioannidis, MD, PhD**, Tufts University School of Medicine: "I worry about the possibility that government funding drains, and researchers simply have to depend on the industry. Even the industry will lose if academic creativity and independence is strangled."

The July-August issue of *Health Affairs* focused on public health capacity and included an outline by former Surgeon General **David Satcher, MD, PhD**, of "three levels at which we need to increase our investment in prevention."

In *Translational Research*, new Editor-in-Chief **Jeffrey Laurence, MD**, cites Research!America poll findings that "Americans rate health-related research (94%) equivalent to homeland security (92%) in terms of the nation's top priorities. And yet there is a 16-fold gap between per capita spending for national defense (\$1600) and biomedical research (\$97) ..."

When Research Means Jobs

The **Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Center**, a Research!America member, was featured in *The New York Times*, on the economic development power of research centers. Focusing on Buffalo, N.Y., "a region struggling to rebound from decades of decline," the article cites 15 new companies that have grown out of the **New York State Center of Excellence in Bioinformatics and Life Sciences**.

On Engaging the Public

In the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society magazine, **Myrl Weinberg, CAE**, president, **National Health Council**, a Research!America member, calls for engaging the public in clinical research: "Public opinion drives public policy, and public policy can support or inhibit the conduct of clinical research." In contrast, she notes a Sigma Xi-Research!America poll finding that 18% of scientists think their involvement in public outreach makes no difference and our 2006 poll showing that 60% of Americans see great value in clinical research.



September marks the kick-off of what promises to be one of the most intensive mid-term election campaign seasons in recent memory. We are

dedicated to assuring that research is a part of the campaign "conversation." To that end, we have designed an exciting new advocacy initiative.

I am asking every stakeholder in research to take a moment now to ensure the success of Research!America and the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation's **2006 Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide** initiative, which will be launched to the public in mid-September.

Responses from candidates for Congress to key questions will be featured on a new Web site, **www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org**, to inform voters of the positions of candidates on issues that concern us all. This new resource for stakeholders and the general public—who will learn of it via *PARADE* magazine and other media—will have the greatest impact if many candidates indicate their positions.

As we go to press, we have a very good candidate response rate, but we are striving to add many more. Please take a moment to contact your candidates for Congress and ask them to respond if they have not already done so, thanking them in advance if they have. (See page 8 for more details.) Candidates are much more likely to respond to their own constituents—you—than to a Washington-based advocacy group. So please, do your part!

Many thanks to the Lasker Foundation and to other key supporters who are making this exciting new resource possible. (See related story for a list of our partners.) Together we will make research a priority in the coming elections!

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The Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act

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life was anything but short. Although Bush announced his veto the day after the Senate passed the bill 63-37, the House passed the act, sponsored by **Reps. Mike Castle (DE) and Diana DeGette (CO)**, in May 2005. In recognition of this leadership, Castle and DeGette received our Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy in 2006.



Patient advocates for stem cell research speak at a July press conference.

Under the unanimous consent agreement that brought H.R. 810 to a vote, the Senate cannot consider any further legislation related to stem cell research in the 109th Congress, effectively putting the issue on the shelf until next year. As a result, stem cell research is likely to be an issue in the November 2006 mid-term elections. Congressional champions have vowed to fight for H.R. 810 until it becomes law and will begin the legislative process anew in the 110th Congress.

Supporters of embryonic stem cell research include legislators from both the Republican and Democratic parties

and the majority of Americans.

According to recent Research!America opinion polling, 58% of Americans support medical research using embryonic stem cells and 57% support using federal funds to perform that research.

Senators who sponsored the bill, **Arlen Specter (PA), Tom Harkin (IA), Dianne Feinstein (CA) and Harry Reid (NV)**, spoke at a July 17 **Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research** press conference. Specter referred to his battle with Hodgkin's disease and said the ongoing debate was "as important as any issue that has been before the United States Senate."

Express your disappointment to the president for his veto, and thank senators and representatives who voted yes on H.R. 810. Visit www.researchamerica.org/advocacy/ for more information.

CMR Works for Increased NIH Funding

Campaign for Medical Research leadership met with House Republican leaders this summer to convey that flat funding for the **National Institutes of Health** is, after inflation, a cut to its budget. As this trend continues, Congress will undo its good work of doubling the NIH budget in FY 99-03. CMR continues to advocate a steady stream of funding at a level above inflation as the only way for NIH research to flourish.

CMR also announced two new board members: **Alan G. Merten, PhD**, president of **George Mason University**, and **Greg Lucier**, president and CEO of **Invitrogen**.

2007 FEDERAL RESEARCH BUDGET

Agency	President's Request	% Change from 2006	House	Senate
National Institutes of Health	\$28.3 billion	No change	\$28.3 billion [†]	\$28.5 billion [†]
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*	\$5.8 billion	-4.6%	\$6.2 billion [†]	\$6.1 billion [†]
National Science Foundation	\$6.0 billion	+7.9%	\$6.0 billion	\$6.0 billion [†]
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality	\$319 million	No change	\$319 billion [†]	\$319 billion [†]

[†] Reflects level approved by Appropriations Committee.

* Reflects the CDC core program budget. For more information on the CDC budget, please visit www.FundCDC.org.

2006 Candidates

Your Constituents Want to Know



AMERICANS place a high value on our nation's global leadership in medical, health and scientific research. Yet, according to Research!America national polling, only 9% of the public say they are very well informed about their elected officials' positions on these issues.

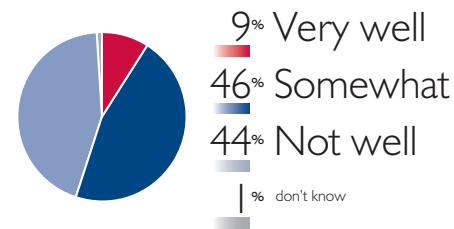
To change this, Research!America and the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation have contacted all 2006 candidates for Congress, inviting them to participate in an important voter education initiative.

If you're a candidate this year, please visit www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org and complete our 10-item questionnaire. E-mail info@yourcandidatesyourhealth.org for log-in information. Your responses will be posted online in mid-September at the same address.

Help us educate the voting public, including the 125 million Americans represented by Research!America members, about their candidates' views on medical, health and scientific research.

Many Don't Know Their Elected Officials' Position

Question: How well informed would you say you are regarding the stance of your elected officials when it comes to their support of medical, health and scientific research?



Source: National Survey, 2005
Charlton Research Company for Research!America

www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org

ALBERT AND MARY LASKER FOUNDATION

Research!America
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH®

The mission of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation is to foster the prevention and treatment of disease and disability by honoring excellence in basic and clinical science, and through public education and research advocacy.

Research!America is the nation's largest not-for-profit public education and advocacy alliance working to make research to improve health a higher national priority. Our 500+ member organizations represent 125 million Americans.



Help Us Let Americans Know Where Their Candidates Stand

The *2006 Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide*, the first national effort to ask candidates their views on medical, health and scientific research, is in full swing, but **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to drive responses to this important voter education initiative!

Research!America asks its members and partners with grassroots membership or advocacy networks to reach out to Congressional candidates and encourage them to respond to this important voter education initiative—and thank them in advance if they already have.

All 2006 Congressional candidates have been invited to answer our 10-item questionnaire at www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org. Their responses will be available to the public on the site in mid-September.

In addition to the **Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation**, our partners in this initiative include the **American Heart Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, The Hill** newspaper, **March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, National Alliance for Hispanic Health and Society for Neuroscience**.

Please post and distribute this flier, which first appeared as an advertisement in *The Hill*, and encourage your candidates to respond!

Contact **Marilyn Perry**, communications specialist,
for more information or a version for your Web site at
mperry@researchamerica.org or 703-739-2577, ext. 40.

Promoting American Innovation

Research!America President **Mary Woolley** spoke at a recent meeting of the **National Innovation Initiative**, which was launched in 2003 by the **Council on Competitiveness**. She highlighted Research!America poll findings, messaging tools and programs that support the Initiative's mission of promoting American competitiveness and capacity for innovation.



NII leaders **Craig Barrett**, chairman, **Intel Corporation**, and **William Brody, MD, PhD**, president, **The Johns Hopkins University**, have said, "To remain at the forefront, we must invest in science, provide incentives for R&D and increase support for math and science education." Goals in the Initiative's *Roadmap for American Innovation* are: making science, technology, engineering and math education a national priority;

attracting the best and brightest from around the world to study and work in the U.S.; catalyzing federally funded fundamental research; and supporting the development and deployment of advanced technologies.

Research!America will continue collaborating with the NII to advocate for American competitiveness and investment in research. Visit www.innovateamerica.org.

Voter Guide Debuts Mid-September *Continued from page 1*

including ads in policy publications *The Hill* and *National Journal*. **Members with grassroots membership or advocacy networks are asked to reach out to Congressional candidates in their areas and encourage them to respond to this important voter education initiative.**

We will continue to post new responses after the guide's launch.

In addition, Research!America and the Lasker Foundation commissioned a national public opinion poll. It features questions similar to those being asked of the candidates. The results will provide informative insights into the views of the general public and candidates for Congress.

"The goals of this program are two-fold," said **The Honorable John Edward Porter**, Research!America chair and former Illinois congressman. "First, we want to educate the voting public broadly, and specifically the 125 million Americans represented by our members, about their candidates' positions regarding research." According to recent Research!America public opinion polling, only 9% of Americans say they are well informed about their elected officials' positions on these issues.

"Second, and no less important, we want to show candidates how much their constituents care about medical, health and science research," Porter said.

Research!America has been polling Americans about these issues for 14 years, and it is clear that they place a high value on our nation's global leadership in research.

"Voters can use this guide to inform their decisions at the polls in November, and we hope this will spur candidates to add research to their platforms," said **Neen Hunt, EdD**, president of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation. "It's really about jumpstarting this dialogue and stressing the importance of research in Americans' lives."

Other partners in *Your Candidates—Your Health* include the **American Heart Association, Association of American Medical Colleges, The Hill, March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, National Alliance for Hispanic Health** and **Society for Neuroscience**.

This fall, Research!America will further engage its network of media partners in promoting the online voter guide.

Wanted: Citizen-Scientist Advocates for Global Health Research

A national call for nominations of Ambassadors for the **Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research** is open until September 15, 2006. These Ambassadors will be individuals who appreciate the power of advocacy and rank among our nation's most respected leaders in global health research.

Research!America will work with Ambassadors by providing them with consistent messages as part of an overall communications framework on the value and importance of increased U.S. investment in global health research.

For their part, Ambassadors will commit to a specific number of outreach activities in their communities, such as meetings with policy makers, editorial board visits and presentations to non-science audiences.

For more details, visit www.researchamerica.org/pgrsociety/ or contact **Karen A. Goraleski**, executive director, at 703-739-2577, ext. 21, or kgoraleski@researchamerica.org.

Thanks to Our Principal Partners

The Research!America Board of Directors and staff extend special thanks to these principal partners for their support of our current initiatives:

AARP

American Heart Association

Association of American Medical Colleges

The Bunning Food Allergy Foundation/Food Allergy Project, Inc.

The Hill

Daniel E. Koshland, PhD

March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

PARADE magazine

Society for Neuroscience

Did YOU Know

Friends of the National Library of Medicine, a member whose chair is **The Honorable Paul G. Rogers**, Research!America chair emeritus, has launched a new quarterly magazine, *NIH MedlinePlus*. Each issue will feature articles on the latest National Institutes of Health advances in research related to four diseases. To view the magazine and/or sign up for the mailing list, see www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/magazine.html.

Research!America member **Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research** recently released its scientific highlights of fiscal year 2005. Over the last year, Whitehead scientists have identified many pivotal biological processes, laying a foundation on which others in the world of biomedicine will continue to build. Visit www.whitehead.mit.edu.

Research!America President **Mary Woolley** presented at the inaugural **2006 Florida CURED Summit** August 1, where she highlighted poll findings as well as economic, competitiveness and aspirational (“Then, Now, Imagine”) messages that convey the value of research to patients and to the state’s and the nation’s economies.

Advocacy Training Workshops in Ohio, Texas

Research!America board member **Karen A. Holbrook, PhD**, president of **The Ohio State University**, encouraged public health professionals to make advocacy part of their professional responsibilities at a July 19 advocacy training workshop.

“You have to market what you do!” Holbrook told an audience of 40 at the workshop presented by Research!America in partnership with **The Ohio Center for Public Health Preparedness at The Ohio State University School of Public Health**.

The audience included faculty and students as well as representatives from **Auglaize County Health Department, Delaware General Health District, Fairfield Department of Health and Medina County Health Department**. The workshop covered ways to overcome public health communication challenges and create messages that work. Each person developed an individual advocacy action plan with monthly goals for the next year.

A public health “advocacy essentials” training session was presented as part of the **National Association of County and City Health Officials’** annual meeting in San Antonio. The **Texas Association of Local Health Officials** was a session partner.

Sixty public health leaders from Florida, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, Texas, Utah and Wyoming attended.

Participants created individual advocacy action plans and drafted letters to the editor for submission based on articles from their local papers.

Contact **Shannon Dzubin** at sdzubin@researchamerica.org to have a workshop in your state.



Karen A. Holbrook, PhD

CDC Funds in the Balance

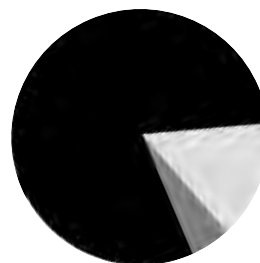
The next step for the Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations Bill will be floor votes, not expected until after the November elections. Postponing the final debate prevents cuts to education and health programs from becoming campaign issues. In the two versions of the bill (House and Senate), the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** budget could be cut for the second year in a row, or Congress could choose the highest proposed level and fund the highest CDC budget ever. The **Campaign for Public Health** urges advocates to visit, write and call their legislators asking them to support higher CDC funding. Visit www.fundcdc.org.

AMERICA Speaks

Would you support or oppose increasing federal funding for state and local health departments across the country that are expected to prepare for and respond to threats to our health?

SOURCE: NATIONAL SURVEY, 2005
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

U.S. Should Invest in State and Local Health Departments



Support	80%
Oppose	15%
Don't know	5%

Gerberding Reinforces Value of Prevention to Hill Staffers

The message that investing in prevention saves lives and saves money was highlighted at a July 19 Capitol Hill briefing featuring Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director **Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH**.

Research!America's chair emeritus, **The Honorable Paul G. Rogers**, delivered the opening remarks and referred to the CDC as "the Paul Revere for this nation," alerting the public to put prevention first for their families and communities.

Gerberding stressed that increased, sustained investment in prevention is essential. Complacency is a major challenge because common, everyday threats such as injuries, obesity and diabetes are not stirring us all to take action, she said.

Gerberding addressed the challenge of translating science into usable tools for Americans, in particular for "Dr. Moms," whom she called out as a key group because women make 83% of all health decisions in the U.S.

Mary Woolley, Research!America's president, said "Americans are ahead of the legislature" in that they want increased investment in prevention research, according to Research!America public opinion polling results.

Jenelle Krishnamoorthy, PhD, health adviser to **Senator Tom Harkin (IA)**, spoke on behalf of the **Congressional Prevention Coalition (CPC)**, chaired by Harkin.

"We don't have a health care system," Krishnamoorthy said. "We have a sick care system." Prevention is the key to changing this, she said.

The briefing was sponsored by Partnership for Prevention and the CPC.



The Hon. Paul G. Rogers, Julie L. Gerberding, MD, MPH, and Mary Woolley

CDC Marks 60th Year

July marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which was founded as the Communicable Disease Center in 1946 in Atlanta.

The CDC is marking 60 years of public health advances with a special series in its *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. Titled "Director's Perspectives," the series will include commentaries

from CDC directors, past and present.

The first, published July 14, was written by **David J. Sencer, MD, MPH**, CDC director from 1966 to 1977. The CDC became a leader in global health in 1966 through its programs targeting malaria and smallpox, Sencer wrote.

MMWR is available online at www.cdc.gov/mmwr. CDC has also compiled a list of its accomplishments at www.cdc.gov/about/60th.htm.

Did You Know?

Continued from page 6

The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, a Research!America member, recently named a new executive director, **Guy Fogleman, MD**. Fogleman was formerly director of the Biomedical Research Division and associate director for Human Health and Performance at **NASA**.

FASEB released "Shared Responsibility, Individual Integrity: Scientists Addressing Conflicts of Interest in Biomedical Research." The report, available at http://opa.faseb.org/pdf/FASEB_COI_paper.pdf, focuses on the relationship between academia and industry as a fundamental part of the modern life science enterprise.

The Foundation for Biomedical Research has created a new Web site for its national public education campaign to spread the word that "Animal research saves animals, too!" The site features champion racehorse Personal Ensign, who recovered from a leg fracture thanks to animal research. Learn more at www.horsefacts.org.

RESEARCH **Makes Cents**

Fast-food industry revenues in 2005:

\$125 billion

That sum would fund the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for nearly 15 years!

SOURCES: THE U.S. FOOD MARKETING SYSTEM, USDA; CDC FY 06 APPROPRIATIONS FACT SHEET

ComingUp

September 13—Our **2005 U.S. Investment in Research** report, which tracks U.S. spending on medical and health-related research, will be released on our Web site.

September 15—Nominations for the 2006 **Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research** Ambassadors are due. Visit www.researchamerica.org/pgrsociety/.

Mid-September—The **2006 Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide** will be online at www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org.

September 19—Research!America, in partnership with **Roche**, will host “Personalized Medicine: From Promise to Practice” a forum in Washington, DC. See www.researchamerica.org/outreach/personalizedmedicine06.

October 10—Our **Eugene Garfield Economic Impact of Medical and Health Research Award** will be presented at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

November 20—**Public Health Thank You Day**.

Advocacy & Action

Make Research a Priority in the November Elections

Please urge your candidates for U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to participate in the **2006 Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide**, an initiative to educate voters on their candidates’ positions on medical, health and scientific research.

Find your candidates’ contact information at our interactive advocacy site at <http://capwiz.com/ram/home/>, clicking on “Election & Candidates.” Call or e-mail to let them know that medical, health and scientific research are important to you and that voters need to know their positions on these issues through their responses to the **2006 Your Candidates—Your Health Voter Guide** questionnaire. Thank them in advance if they have already responded.

Another way to reach candidates is by attending a town hall meeting or other event they hold as part of their campaign. These events provide an excellent opportunity for you to ask your candidates directly about their positions on medical, health and scientific research.

Help make research a priority in the November elections!

Visit

US ON THE WEB www.researchamerica.org

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