

The Research ADVOCATE

JANUARY 2008

Bringing Research Closer to Home

Your Candidates—Your Health: The Presidential Primaries Begin



Your Candidates—Your Health: Presidential Primaries 2008 kicked off primary season with a four-state ad campaign and new public opinion data.

Ads promoting this voter education initiative ran in local newspapers just

before the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire primary. The ads encouraged voters to contact the presidential candidates at www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org to urge them to tell all voters their positions on health and research.

Similar ads will run January 13 in *PARADE* magazine in South Carolina and Nevada newspapers, in advance of those



state primaries. The South Carolina ad appears as this month's insert.

Research!America and 27 partner organizations in *Your Candidates—Your Health* invited all presidential candidates to answer 17 questions about health, research and related issues. Our latest national poll asked voters similar questions to those we asked the candidates.

While health care has been widely discussed as a campaign issue, the poll found that health research and related issues are also

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First National Survey of Hispanic Opinions on Health Research

Hispanics believe the U.S. should make a higher commitment to health and science research and are willing to pay additional taxes to fund additional medical research, according to the latest national poll from Research!America. Conducted in partnership with the

National Alliance for Hispanic Health, it is our first poll of Hispanic households.

Findings show that 81% of Hispanic Americans think the U.S. commitment to health and science research should be higher, compared to 51% of the gen-

eral population, and 78% of Hispanics are willing to pay additional taxes to subsidize additional medical research.

Additionally, 89% think there should be more opportunities for Hispanic youth to pursue careers in the sciences,

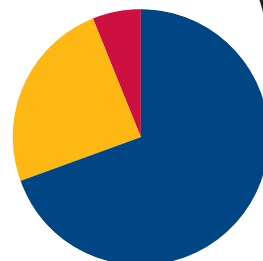
Continued on page 6

AMERICA Speaks

The first presidential primaries are scheduled to take place in January of 2008. If a candidate is a strong supporter of federal spending for medical, health and scientific research, would that make you more or less likely to vote for that candidate?

SOURCE: YOUR CANDIDATES—YOUR HEALTH SURVEY, 2007
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

Americans More Likely to Vote for Candidates Who Support Research



More likely	69%
Less likely	25%
Don't know	6%

New ON THE Web

www.researchamerica.org

Download the **first national survey of Hispanic opinions** on health research at www.researchamerica.org.

The **Centers for Disease Control & Prevention** launched its redesigned "CDC en Español" at www.cdc.gov/spanish.

Compare presidential candidates' and Americans' opinions on health and research at www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org.

Watch **Mary Woolley** present our global health research investment report at the **2007 Aspen Health Forum** at www.fora.tv.

View information about our **2008 Advocacy Awards Gala** at www.researchamerica.org/advocacy_awards.

The Research ADVOCATE



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About Research!America

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. Founded in 1989, Research!America is supported by our 500+ member organizations that represent the voices of more than 125 million Americans. Our public opinion polls, advocacy programs and publications reach the public and decision makers to help advance medical, health and scientific research.

Research!America
AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH

Members T A K E Action



John H. Morrison, PhD

The Society for Neuroscience

Founded in 1969, the Society for Neuroscience is the world's largest professional organization representing scientists and physicians dedicated to understanding the brain, spinal cord and peripheral nervous system. Today, the Society has more than 38,000 members worldwide and continues to grow.

The Society for Neuroscience works to increase basic science literacy in America, specifically from the perspective of basic biology of the brain and how research will lead to clinical innovations.

"The American public is not as knowledgeable about important scientific principles and concepts as they need to be in order to make informed decisions about science policy," said **John H. Morrison, PhD**, chair of the Society for Neuroscience's government and public affairs committee. "Neurological disorders are one of the most costly in terms of human suffering and the economy, but people know little about the brain and how it functions and how things go wrong.

"We encourage our members to advocate for public funding for science and to educate the public about neuroscience and neurologic and psychological disorders, especially about the role of research."

Flat or decreased NIH funding has put incredible pressure on the research community, Morrison said.

"It has an immediate effect because it decreases the money available for research right now. Possibly even more importantly, it's impossible to sustain a research program over the course of five to 10 years because of constant funding lapses."

The Society encourages its members to make the case for increased research funding to Congress and is a primary partner with the **Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives** in Brain Awareness

Week, which is March 10-16 this year.

Morrison also stressed that the Society always keeps in mind all three elements of research: a very strong basic science foundation, the willingness and capacity to translate research and clinical innovation.

"We need to impress upon the American people and Congress that we must have a strong foundation in basic science to cure these debilitating diseases," Morrison said. "The basic science foundation has to come from government funding. When you cut funding, you cut this foundation, and it will have devastating consequences when trying to cure disease."

'We must have a strong foundation in basic science to cure these debilitating diseases.'

A member of Research!America since

1989, the Society for Neuroscience also is a strong partner in our voter education initiatives including **Your Congress—Your Health** and **Your Candidates—Your Health**.

Partnering with Research!America "has enabled us to increase our impact on Congress and on the funding of science," Morrison said.

A key way that the Society advances medical and health research is through its annual meeting each fall when more than 30,000 scientists attend and present the newest findings. The 2008 annual meeting will be November 15–19 in Washington, DC. The Society also disseminates the latest research findings through its many publications, including *The Journal of Neuroscience*, its peer-reviewed, weekly journal.

For more information, visit www.sfn.org.

Pursue All Avenues of Stem Cell Research



Alan Leshner, PhD William Brinkley, PhD

News media widely reported the announcement when research teams from the **University of Kyoto** in Japan and the **University of Wisconsin** independently turned human skin cells into pluripotent stem cells without harming embryos. Research!America board member **Alan Leshner, PhD, American Association for the Advancement of Science**, and stem cell research pioneer **James A. Thomson, PhD, DVM, University of Wisconsin**, said in an op-ed that while

the new method is promising, “we cannot invest all our hopes in a single approach.” They write, “At a time when nearly 60% of Americans support human embryonic stem cell research, U.S. stem cell policy runs counter to both scientific and public opinion.” The op-ed was carried in the *Washington Post*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, *Detroit News*, *St. Petersburg Times*, *Cleveland Plain-Dealer*, *Sacramento Bee* and *St. Paul Pioneer-Press*.

An op-ed by **William Brinkley, PhD, Baylor College of Medicine**, also a Research!America board member, in the *Houston Chronicle* noted: “Choosing to focus on only one avenue of research or type of cell source would be irresponsible, unreasonable and premature.”



Innovation and Calls for Funding

As federal budget negotiations continued, **Karl Moeller** of the **Campaign for Public Health** and **Stacie Propst, PhD**, of Research!America, told *The Scientist* blog their organizations continue to urge lawmakers to support an increase in FY08 research budgets.

The **Food and Drug Administration** also needs stronger funding to fulfill its mission. As reported in **Reuters**, a subcommittee of FDA’s Science Board chaired by Research!America emeritus director **Gail Cassell, PhD, Eli Lilly & Co.**,

presented its findings to Commissioner **Andrew von Eschenbach, MD**: “FDA’s inability to keep up with scientific advances means that American lives are at risk.” Visit www.fda.gov for the report.

The **National Innovation Initiative**—a coalition to make innovation a national priority formed by the **Council on Competitiveness, Intel, Johns Hopkins University** and others—ran an ad in *The Hill*, *Roll Call* and *CQ Today* asking Congress to fund the America COMPETES Act, create a permanent R&D tax credit and reform high-skilled immigration.

Swedish Publication Cites Research!America

Research!America is featured in a new report by Sweden’s SNS—Centre for Business and Policy Studies, *Titans and Tigers: Biomedicine and Innovation Systems in China, India, USA, Ireland, Denmark and Finland*. Co-editor **Hans Bergstrom, PhD**, describes Research!America’s role in doubling the NIH budget and the role of **The Honorable John Edward Porter**, now Research!America’s chair, then-chair of the House subcommittee responsible for HHS (and NIH) appropriations. The report recommends the formation of Research!Sweden, building on Research!America’s success.



As we go to press, the news is still not good for research appropriations. Nor have we heard from all the presidential candidates about their com-

mitments to research for health. The two are not unrelated; compared to other issues, research for health has fallen on bad times, despite the fact that health has not receded from the public eye. We need to reconnect research to one of Americans’ highest and most lasting values—achieving better health. **We must make research impossible to ignore in 2008...**

Research!America enters our 19th year with renewed commitment to make research to improve health a much higher national priority. When a public concern becomes a public priority, elected officials respond. The first step toward accomplishing our goal requires action by each individual stakeholder in research.

With our voter guide (www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org), every stakeholder in research has a simple way to urge candidates to make health and research a priority and a way of determining if your requests have been heard—either the candidate responded or did not!

Of late we’ve tolerated elected officials telling us the right thing in person but too often taking no or even contrary action. Lip service is not enough; we need commitment and action! If our community becomes engaged—and remember, there are lots of us—other members of the voting public will follow. But stakeholders must lead the way.

I am asking you to join me in making advocacy for research your personal priority in 2008. Research!America will help, but we can’t do it alone.

Mary Wollsey

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FY08 Appropriations Put to Bed

Outlook for NIH is Bleak, CDC Fares Slightly Better

In its final week, Congress continues to hobble towards completion of FY08 appropriations. On December 17 the House passed the **Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2008** (H.R. 2764). This measure includes all remaining appropriations bills not yet signed into law, including the LHHS bill funding health-related agencies including the **National Institutes of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**. President Bush vetoed an earlier version of the LHHS bill on the grounds that it provided too much money.

The act, as passed by the House, included \$31 billion for the war in Afghanistan but no money for Iraq. The Senate voted on the House's proposal on December 18. The Senate added another \$40 billion for the war in Iraq. Congress intends to apply an across-the-board cut that will provide an FY08 NIH funding level of \$28.9 billion, an increase of \$133 million or 0.46% over FY07.

The appropriation for the CDC's

core programs contained in the consolidated bill is \$6.4 billion, a 2.8% increase over the agency's FY07 appropriation and a 6% increase over the president's request.

Because the Senate added increased funding for Iraq and Afghanistan, the bill has been sent back to the House for approval. As of press time, every expectation is that the final bill will be sent to the White House for the president's signature by December 20 or 21. The president is expected to sign the bill.

The **Campaign for Medical Research**, dedicated to increased funding for NIH, issued a statement expressing its disappointment that the administration and its congressional supporters continue to oppose funding increases to restore NIH's purchasing power. In 2008, CMR will focus on persuading Congress and the White House to put NIH on a path to compensate for five years of flat funding.

The **Campaign for Public Health**, dedicated to increased funding for the CDC, applauded the hard work Congress put into the earlier and more favorable bipartisan LHHS bill that was vetoed by the president. CPH also noted that the CDC could have fared

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2008 FEDERAL RESEARCH BUDGET

Agency	2007 Funding Resolution	President's Request	House	Senate	Congressional Appropriations	% Change from 2007
National Institutes of Health*	\$28.8 billion	\$28.3 billion	\$29.4 billion	\$29.6 billion	\$28.9 billion	+0.46%
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**	\$6.2 billion	\$6.0 billion	\$6.4 billion	\$6.6 billion	\$6.4 billion	+2.8%
National Science Foundation	\$5.9 billion	\$6.4 billion	\$6.5 billion	\$6.6 billion	\$6.0 billion	+2.0%
Agency for Health-care Research and Quality	\$319 million	\$330 million	\$330 million	\$350 million	\$335 million	+4.7%

* Does not include money for the Global HIV/AIDS Fund, which is appropriated to NIH but not available for research.

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



Divided We Fail

An alliance of large companies, small business, labor and members of the public—AARP, the **Business Roundtable**, **Service Employees International Union** and the **National Federation of Independent Business**—is leading an initiative called **Divided We Fail**. AARP's CEO **Bill Novelli** is a Research!America board member.

The initiative seeks bi-partisan solutions from presidential candidates, members of Congress, and business and community leaders to ensure affordable, quality health care and long-term financial security for all Americans. Research!America is a supporter of the Divided We Fail platform, which includes a call for wellness and prevention efforts as greater national priorities. See www.dividedwefail.org.



Bill Novelli

Top Health Stories in 2007

Harvard Medical School's *Harvard Health Letter* compiled the top 10 health stories for 2007, including the increasingly global dimension of scientific research, advances in genome sequencing that hold promise for personalized medicine, studies to identify diseases associated with specific genes and new brain imaging technologies.

Your Candidates—Your Health

Continued from page 1

significant factors in voters' minds. Fully 82% of Americans say they are more likely to vote for a presidential candidate who supports increased funding for research to improve health. More than half (55%) are dissatisfied with the quality of health care in America, and 72% are dissatisfied with the cost of health care. Eight in 10 (81%) say our health care system should be redesigned to encourage prevention of illness. Nearly half (45%) think we must increase investment in the National Institutes of Health as a critical strategy to improve health care, and 54% think funding should be increased for core programs

FY08 Appropriations

Continued from page 4

much worse in the revised omnibus bill. The CDC's core program lines were cut by .5% in FY06 and level-funded in FY07. The 2.8% increase in the proposed current bill does not replace

at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to improve public health.

"These findings send a clear message that voters care very much about health research as a part of health care issues generally," said Mary Woolley, president, Research!America. "Candidates for president must not overlook the importance of research in addressing the overall health issues our nation faces."

See the list of partners supporting **Your Candidates—Your Health: Presidential Primaries 2008** in this month's insert and online, at www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org, where you can read the full poll findings and urge the presidential candidates to tell all Americans where they stand on health and research!

desperately needed funding cut in 2006 as the vetoed bill did, but it will help the agency address public health threats facing Americans.

Please visit www.researchamerica.org for the latest updates on the status of FY08 appropriations.

12th Annual Research!America Advocacy Awards

March 18, 2008

Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium
Washington, DC

Corporate Chair and Sponsor
Joseph M. Feczko, MD, Pfizer Inc

Media Host and Sponsor
Randy Siegel, *PARADE* magazine

Gala Co-Chair
Dennis A. Ausiello, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital/
Partners Healthcare System

6:30 p.m. Grand Reception,
sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline

7:15 p.m. Dinner and Awards
Presentations

2008 Advocacy Award Recipients

**EDWIN C. WHITEHEAD AWARD
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH ADVOCACY**

The Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
United States Senator, Massachusetts

**ISADORE ROSENFELD AWARD
FOR IMPACT ON PUBLIC OPINION**

**The Honorable Arnold
Schwarzenegger**
Governor of California

**RAYMOND AND BEVERLY SACKLER AWARD
FOR SUSTAINED NATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

William H. Foege, MD, MPH
*Public and Global Health Research Advocate
Former CDC Director; Senior Fellow, Bill & Melinda
Gates Foundation
Emeritus Presidential Distinguished Professor, Emory
University Rollins School of Public Health*

**GORDON AND LLURA GUND
LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Pat Furlong
*Founding President and Chief Executive Officer
Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy*

**PAUL G. ROGERS DISTINGUISHED
ORGANIZATION ADVOCACY AWARD**
Benefactor: Hogan & Hartson LLP
**amFAR, The Foundation for AIDS
Research**

*Mathilde Krim, PhD, Founding Chairman
Kenneth Cole, Chairman*

BUILDERS OF SCIENCE AWARD

Richard A. Lerner, MD
President, The Scripps Research Institute

For more information, including
sponsorship opportunities,
call 703-739-2577, ext. 35.

Did YOU Know

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has created an **Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee** chaired by **Thomas Insel, MD**, director of the National Institute of Mental Health. Committee members include **Elias Zerhouni, MD**, NIH director, serves on the committee.

More than 1,100 people attended the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's **2007 National Prevention and Health Promotion Summit: Creating a Culture of Wellness** in Washington, DC, November 27-29. See www.cdc.gov.

The **National Institutes of Health** is calling for applications for **2008 NIH Director's Pioneer Awards and New Innovator Awards**. For information, see www.nih.gov

Research!America board member **Martha N. Hill, PhD, RN**, and emeritus director **Gail Cassell, PhD**, have been elected to the **Institute of Medicine** governing council. Board member **Alan Leshner, PhD**, also serves on the council, as do Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research Ambassadors **Jeffrey P. Koplan, MD, MPH**, and **Jo Ivey Boufford, MD**.

Research!America Leaders Named to FDA Foundation

Research!America board members **Georges C. Benjamin, MD**, executive director of the American Public Health Association, and **Tadataka Yamada, MD**, president of the global health program at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, are inaugural board members of the **Reagan-Udall Foundation**.



Benjamin



Yamada



McClellan

Mark McClellan, MD, PhD, former Food & Drug Administration commissioner, former administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid

Services, and Research!America board member, will chair the foundation, which was mandated by Congress to advance the FDA's mission.

National Forum: Research for Health in 2008

On March 18, our National Forum, **Research for Health in 2008: Valuing Evidence and Enhancing Impact**, will provide an opportunity for nationally recognized leaders representing the public and private sectors, the media and patient advocates to engage in interactive discussion on a broad range of issues impacting the role of research and evidence in advancing the nation's health. The forum will be web cast, so

everyone who wants can participate in this unique event.

Panelists confirmed to date include:

- **Carolyn Clancy, MD**, director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- **Julie Gerberding, MD, MPH**, director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **The Honorable Billy Tauzin, CEO**, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
- **Andrew von Eschenbach, MD**, commissioner, Food and Drug Administration
- **Elias A. Zerhouni, MD**, director, National Institutes of Health

The Hill newspaper and the **Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America** are sponsors confirmed to date. To join them, e-mail cmconnell@researchamerica.org.

Hispanic Opinion Survey

Continued from page 1

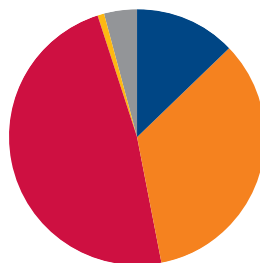
and 86% of Hispanic families think it is very important to encourage their children to go into the fields of medical, health and scientific research.

See www.researchamerica.org to download full poll findings and methodology.

AMERICA Speaks

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?

Many Hispanics Say They Are Not Well Informed



Very well informed	13%
Somewhat informed	34%
Not well informed	48%
It varies/depends	1%
Don't know	4%

SOURCE: HISPANIC HEALTH AND SCIENCE POLL, 2007
CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

Climate Change and Health

Margaret Chan, MD, director-general of the **World Health Organization**, spoke at the 2007 David E. Barnes Global Health Lecture at the **National Institutes of**



Margaret Chan, MD

Health. The event, which focused on health and climate change, was sponsored by the **National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research** and the **Fogarty International Center**.

Chan said, "Climate change will affect, in profoundly adverse ways, some of the most fundamental determinants of health: food, air, water." She said climate change is as powerful a threat to health as poverty, famine and infectious diseases and called it "the defining issue for public health during this century."

Chan said more research is needed, particularly researching interactions between the environment, agriculture, and infectious diseases. Climate change will be the theme for the next World Health Day in April 2008. See www.who.int/world-health-day.

Rogers Society Ambassador Recognized, Outreach Continues

Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research Ambassador **William Holzemer, RN, PhD**, was honored with the **International Distinguished Leadership Award** for 2007. The **Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools** presented the award at its fourth annual Building Global Alliances Conference, which focused on the relationship between migration, poverty, health and policy development. Rogers Society Ambassador **Barbara L. Nichols, DHL, RN**, is CEO of the commission.



Lucille A. Joel, EdD, RN; William Holzemer, RN, PhD; Barbara L. Nichols, DHL, RN

The award recognizes individuals who serve as models for success in the global healthcare community. Holzemer is associate dean for international programs at the University of California, San Francisco School of Nursing. He co-directs the International Center for HIV/AIDS Nursing Research with fellow Ambassador **Carmen Portillo, RN, PhD**.

Rogers Society Ambassador **John Clemens, MD**, met with his Michigan congressional delegation. Director-General of the **International Vaccine Institute** based in Seoul, Korea, Clemens was in Washington, DC, to discuss the importance of investing in global health research and the role Americans and his institution play in improving the lives of citizens at home and abroad.

Did You Know?

Continued from page 6

Mona K. Floyd, JD, has joined Research!America as senior director of special programs. She most recently worked as a director of health policy and senior legislative assistant on Capitol Hill.

* * *

Maria Freire, PhD, will become president of the **Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation** on March 1. Freire will succeed **Neen Hunt, EdD**, who has headed the foundation since 1995.

Principal Partner Thank You

Research!America extends special thanks to our principal partners:

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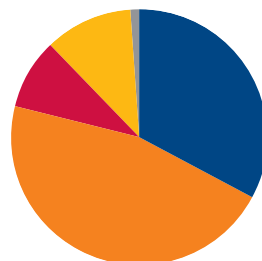
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AMERICA Speaks

How important would you say it is that the U.S. work to improve health globally?

U.S. Should Work to Improve Health Globally



Very	33%
Somewhat	46%
Not too	9%
Not at all	11%
Don't know	1%

SOURCE: YOUR CANDIDATES—YOUR HEALTH SURVEY, 2007
 CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

ComingUp

February 20-22, 2008—*American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering's 17th Annual Event. Washington, DC.*
www.aimbe.org/annualevent.

March 10-16, 2008—*Brain Awareness Week, an initiative organized by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives to advance public awareness about benefits of brain research.* <http://brainweek.dana.org>.

March 18, 2008—*Research!America's 2008 Annual Meeting, National Forum and Advocacy Awards Gala. Washington, DC.*



Advocacy & Action

Make an Informed Choice During the Presidential Primaries

When you take part in your state's presidential primary election or caucus, be sure you know where the candidates stand on health and research.

Visit www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org to see what the candidates think about important health issues such as prevention, electronic health records and federal funding for research.

Be sure to send the candidates who are participating a thank you e-mail and urge those who have not yet responded to do so.

Visit www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org today!



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