“The ‘good news’ I like to hear — the ‘bad news’ I’ve GOT to hear.”

— Leadership advice adopted from his father’s maxim

Maj. Gen. Joseph Fix
“If current trends in biomedical research investment continue, the U.S. government’s investment in life sciences research over the ensuing half-decade is likely to be barely half that of China’s in current dollars, and roughly one-quarter of China’s level as a share of GDP.”

“Congressional Job Approval Essentially Flat at 12%”
(gallup.com, March 21, 2012)
## Mostly Bad News for Science

### Where we are now
- Budget Control Act (BCA)
- Supercommittee failure
- FY12 ray of hope
- Current budgets don’t prioritize research; appropriations process iffy
- FDA User Fee Act passage probable
- Analysts are downgrading equities with sequestration exposure

### Where we are headed
- Gridlock
- Sequestration and appropriations decisions in lame-duck session or punt to 2013
- No predictability
- Less private investment
- Discouraged young scientists
Sequestration: Health Research at the Breaking Point

- Research!America report illustrates the devastating effect if sequestration, or 7.8% across-the-board cuts, goes into effect
- NIH would lose $2.39 billion, or the equivalent of all new R01 grants or about the amount of FY11 grants funding mental health and TBI research

Source: NIH Research, Condition and Disease Categorization Process (FY11)
Medical Research at DoD: Sequestration — Plus

- DoD funds critical research on TBI and other mental health and neurological disorders, as well as HIV/AIDS, cancer, infectious diseases and biodefense
- Unlike for science agencies, research at DoD faces the additional challenge of internal prioritizations
Pressure Points – Action Opportunities

• Overriding public concern re: job creation and economic growth
• Wounded service members and veterans need answers
• Threat of sequestration
• Election-year politics: Role of government
• Health care after Supreme Court ruling on ACA
• Tea Party, et. al., hostility to FDA
• Not enough advocates are speaking out
Research!America’s Mission

Making research to improve health a higher national priority

Research!America is an innovator in advocacy for research
“...public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed.”

President Abraham Lincoln
Commissioning public opinion polls on research issues for more than 20 years:
  - National Polls
  - State-Based Polls
  - Issue-Specific Polls

Telephone (random-digit dialing) polls are conducted with a sample size of 800-1000 adults (age 18+) and a maximum theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.5%. Data are demographically representative of adult U.S. residents (state or national).

Online polls are conducted with a sample size of 1000-2000 adults and sampling error of +/-3.1%. The data are weighted in two stages to ensure accurate representation of the U.S. adult population.
Over Half Skeptical that U.S. Will Be a Leader in Health Care

In your view, which of the following will be considered the No. 1 world leader in health care in the year 2020?

- United States: 47%
- China: 3%
- India: 2%
- European Union: 28%
- Brazil: 2%
- Not sure: 3%

Source: A Research!America poll of likely voters conducted in partnership with JZ Analytics in March 2012.
Over Half Doubt U.S. Leadership in Science and Technology in 2020

In your view, which of the following will be considered the No. 1 world leader in science and technology in the year 2020?

- United States: 42%
- China: 26%
- India: 7%
- European Union: 2%
- Brazil: 0%
- Not sure: 23%

Source: A Research!America poll of likely voters conducted in partnership with JZ Analytics in March 2012.
Majority Has Negative Reaction to Decreased Medical Research Funding

After adjusting for inflation, the amount of money spent by the federal government on medical and health research has declined over the past 5 years. Hearing this, what is your reaction to the decline in spending?

- Very positive: 0%
- Somewhat positive: 18%
- Somewhat negative: 18%
- Very negative: 20%
- Not sure: 18%
- Refused: 7%

Source: A Research!America poll conducted in partnership with JZ Analytics in March 2012.
Science and technology are responsible for about half of our economic growth since World War II. Flat and decreasing federal investment in research creates an uncertain future for scientists. As a result, scientists may leave their profession or move abroad and use their scientific training in countries with strong and stable investments in research. In your judgment, what level of concern is this to the United States?

- 43%: A great concern
- 42%: Somewhat of a concern
- 7%: Not much of a concern
- 6%: No concern
- 2%: Not sure

Source: A Research!America poll conducted in partnership with JZ Analytics in March 2012.
Additional Poll Findings

- Americans support incentives for companies doing research
- Important to make R&D tax credit permanent
- Very important to put research to work to eliminate health disparities
- Investing in research is important to job creation
- Research is part of the solution to containing health care costs
- More health research investment is needed for the benefit of military veterans and service members
- Overwhelming agreement that civilians benefit from military health research
Public Perceptions of Science and Scientists

Science’s impact on society is:
- Mostly positive: 84%
- Mostly negative: 6%
- Other/don’t know: 10%

Professions contributing “a lot to society’s well-being”:
- Members of military: 84%
- Teachers: 77%
- Scientists: 70%
- Medical doctors: 69%

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, July 2009
And Yet, Despite High Levels of Public Confidence, Scientists are Invisible in Our Society...
Most Americans Can’t Name a Living Scientist

Can you name a living scientist? (first volunteered responses)

66% No
34% Yes

- Stephen Hawking 15%
- James Watson 1%
- Jane Goodall 1%
- Bill Nye 1%
- Michio Kaku 1%
- Neil Degrasse Tyson 1%
- Other 14%

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
Most Americans Don’t Know Where Research is Conducted

Can you name any institution, company or organization where medical and health research is conducted?

- I can
- I cannot

 Mayo Clinic: 10%
 CDC: 9%
 NIH: 7%
 Johns Hopkins: 6%
 St. Jude: 4%
 Pfizer: 3%
 American Cancer Society: 3%
 Merck: 2%
 Duke Univ./Med. Ctr.: 1%
 OR Heath & Sci. Univ.: 1%
 UCSF: 1%
 Other: 52%

Source: National Public Opinion Poll, October 2011, JZ Analytics for Research!America
Most Don’t Know Their Elected Officials’ Positions on Research

How well informed would you say you are about the positions of your senators and representative when it comes to their support of medical, health and scientific research?

- Very well informed: 7%
- Somewhat well informed: 36%
- Somewhat uninformed: 25%
- Very uninformed: 8%
- Not sure: 24%

Source: National Public Opinion Poll, October 2011, JZ Analytics for Research!America
Your Candidates-Your Health for the 2012 Elections

- Outreach to candidates
  Candidates for federal office will be invited to participate by providing responses to a questionnaire about health, research and related issues

- Extensive public outreach through the Research!America advocacy network and sponsoring partners to encourage candidates for federal office to share their views

www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org
Creating Champions in Science in Congress: 101

- Candidates for election who don’t talk about R&D before they are elected are highly unlikely to become champions once in office.
- Candidates listen to potential voters.
What Can You Do?

- Visit YourCandidatesYourHealth.org and ask candidates if research is important to them.
- Attend rallies and town halls; let the candidates know brain research is a voting issue.
- Meet with your representatives and their staffs. Let them know why brain research is important.
What Can You Do?

• Write op-eds or letters to the editor
• Spread the word via blogging or other social media
• Get as many constituents as you can to sign onto a joint letter to your Members of Congress
We have to beat the high odds to accelerate medical progress. It’s a battle we can’t afford to lose. What part will you play?
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