Multiple research disciplines come into play as public sector- and private sector-funded researchers seek to alleviate the burden of disease. Through spending on basic research, drug and medical device development, health services and behavioral research, and other R&D, government and industry advance our nation’s medical knowledge and ability. To help clarify the federal role in the discovery, development, and delivery continuum, this fact sheet reviews the contribution of seven key agencies to progress in the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular conditions.

**National Institutes of Health** funds basic and clinical cardiovascular research, contributing greatly to both the discovery and development phases of the innovation cycle. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute funded research discovered the benefits of lowering high blood pressure and high cholesterol, introduced HDL and LDL cholesterol levels as indicators of cardiovascular disease risk, and provided the foundation for statin development.

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** provides valuable insights to physicians, insurers, and patients by collecting, evaluating, and distributing evidence on disease prevention and treatment. The CDC develops strategies for the most effective possible deployment of existing knowledge in the fight against heart disease.

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality** is the country’s leading agency for health services research, a critical driver of high quality healthcare. In a healthcare system wherein 45% of patients fail to receive recommended care, AHRQ is instrumental in providing the evidence base needed to make healthcare safer, more accessible, and more affordable, and to address persistent healthcare disparities.

**Veterans Administration** supports physician-scientists who conduct studies examining the delivery and effectiveness of care, along with developing novel therapies. The VA's Million Veterans Program will assemble a genetic database for one million veterans, advancing personalized medicine by providing a peerless dataset for future studies.
Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute focuses on maximizing the value to patients of medical progress. By funding comparative clinical effectiveness research, PCORI works to ensure that patients receive the right treatments at the right time. PCORI is helping to realign the discovery, development, delivery continuum to ensure the patients’ perspective is a driving force in the future of healthcare.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services plays an important role in improving the health care system. Through its Centers for Innovation, CMS develops new techniques and publishes research detailing how the health care system works and how it can work better. As one of the nation’s largest health care providers, CMS is uniquely positioned to inform improvements in the delivery phase of the innovation cycle.

Food and Drug Administration plays a critical role in the delivery of medical technologies by making sure the devices, drugs, and therapies we trust our lives to are safe and effective. FDA also works with public and private sector partners to reduce the time from discovery to delivery so that safe and effective medical advances reach patients as quickly as possible. The products under FDA’s watch make up 25 cents of every dollar spent by Americans.

Polls Show Americans United in Support of Science:

**Americans Agree: Basic Research is Critical**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government."

- Agree: 70%
- Disagree: 15%
- No Opinion: 15%

**Important to Fund Research on U.S. Health Care System**

How important is it that our nation supports research that focuses on improving how our health care system is functioning?

- Important: 78%
- Not Important: 12%
- No Opinion: 10%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.

**Sources**