Federally-Funded Research is a Public Good

Mary Woolley, President and CEO, Research!America
Research!America’s Mission

Making research to improve health a higher national priority

Research!America is an innovator in advocacy for research
Research!America: 28 Years of Putting Research on the Public Agenda

• Nonprofit alliance with member organizations drawn from academia, independent research institutes, industry, patient organizations, philanthropies and scientific societies representing more than 125 million Americans

• Distinguished, all-volunteer board includes former elected and appointed officials, media and public relations leaders, and leaders from alliance member organizations

• Four ‘sister’ organizations in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Sweden
Medical and Health R&D Expenditure, 2015

Total: $158.7 billion

Source: Research!America Investment Report
Health Care Spending vs. R&D Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthcare Spending versus R&amp;D Investments ($ in millions)</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total U.S. Medical and Health R&amp;D Spending</td>
<td>$140,107</td>
<td>$151,792</td>
<td>$158,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total U.S. Health Spending (healthcare + R&amp;D)</td>
<td>$2,973,526</td>
<td>$3,137,540</td>
<td>$3,222,340</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical and Health R&amp;D as % of U.S. Health Spending</td>
<td>4.71%</td>
<td>4.84%</td>
<td>4.93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research!America Investment Report
Few Say We Are Spending Too Much on Research to Fight Disease

The U.S. spends about 5 cents of each health dollar on research to prevent, cure and treat disease and disability. Do you think that this is too much, the right amount or not enough?

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

Mary Lasker
1900-1994
A Nation Worth Defending

- U.S. defense spending in 2016 totaled $585 billion.

- Health Security: The National Institutes of Health budget in 2016 totaled $32.3 billion.

“The NIH... is our nation's Department of Defense for America's personal health”*

Sources: DHS, NIH, *Congressman Steve Cohen (D-TN)
Federally-Funded Research is...

1. A public good. Its benefits accrue broadly.

2. An investment in health, security, and prosperity that generates multi-faceted returns across generations.

3. Important to Americans. About half say they would willingly pay higher taxes, if those dollars are channeled directly into medical research.
Majority Willing to Pay More in Taxes for Medical Research

Would you be willing to pay $1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all of the money would be spent on additional medical research?

Majority Agree that Basic Research is Necessary

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.

Only a Third Say: Making Enough Progress in Developing Medicines

Do you believe we are making enough progress in developing new medicines?

![Pie Chart]

- Yes: 32%
- No: 48%
- Not Sure: 21%

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in June 2016.
Most Americans Cannot Name a Living Scientist

Can you name a living scientist?

- Stephen Hawking (27%)
- Neil deGrasse Tyson (19%)
- Bill Nye (5%)
- Richard Dawkins (3%)
- Jane Goodall (2%)
- Anthony Fauci (2%)
- Michio Kaku (2%)
- Me (2%)
- James Watson (1%)

Most Americans Don’t Know Where Research is Conducted

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

- Mayo Clinic (17%)
- Johns Hopkins University (10%)
- St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (6%)
- NIH (4%)
- Cleveland Clinic (4%)
- MD Anderson Cancer Center (2%)
- Harvard University (3%)
- American Cancer Society (2%)
- CDC (1%)

Most Americans Don’t Know Research is Conducted Nationwide

To the best of your knowledge, would you say that medical research in the U.S. is conducted in all 50 states?

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2016.
How important is it for scientists to inform elected officials and the public about their research and its impact on society?

- 51% Very Important
- 33% Somewhat Important
- 5% Not Very Important
- 2% Not Important At All
- 10% Not Sure

Source: A Research!America and ScienceDebate.org poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015.
“To bridge this gap in understanding and shared engagement, future biomedical scientists and physician scientists alike must be prepared to articulate to the public and its elected representatives the immediate and potential future impact of their work.”

Implementation of training through a new competitive grant process.

-Excerpt from Vision 2.3: Ensure that the NIH-trained workforce is fluent in the public context of science. Full report is available at www.nihvp.org
Blue Ribbon Commission

Goals: Stimulate a meaningful public conversation about the societal and economic roles of science; optimize research and innovation for the public good

- Commission members to represent a range of Americans
- Receive input from Americans before moving forward with a strategic plan
- Recommend strategic actions for nation’s scientific enterprise

Preliminary Study Authorized by Congress

- As part of FY15 “Cromnibus,” Congress authorized (and NAS subsequently completed) a preliminary study evaluating science literacy and regard. Discussions ongoing re next steps.
Nothing About Us Without Us*

*A slogan originating with the South African disability movement in the early 1990’s
The most important four words a researcher can say and convey are ...
“I work for you.”
Research!America Works for You

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