The Honorable John Edward Porter
Chair Emeritus of Research!America and U.S. Representative, 1980-2001

“What worries me most today is that we have learned how to make progress with evidence-based decision-making and yet many of our fellow citizens reject this and also want to undo much of the safety net that helps alleviate poverty. What to do to address these and the many other serious problems that face our country? Vote! We are all privileged to be citizens of this great experiment in democracy and self-government, we cannot allow it to fail and turn backward.”

Atul Gawande, M.D., MPH
Professor, Department of Health Policy and Management, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Samuel O. Thier Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, and Executive Director, Ariadne Labs

“I share the deepest gratitude and support for what research advocates do to make it possible to improve health and health care delivery. This work is among the most important work of our generation… In 1900, the average American lived only into their 40s. Thanks to a century of incredible discovery, we now get to live, if we receive a regular source of care and access to treatments and medications, into our 80s on average. That’s an extraordinary transformation, and it is because of the research you advocate for.”
Research!America Advocacy Award for Sustained National Leadership

Peter J. Hotez, M.D., Ph.D.
Dean for the National School of Tropical Medicine, Baylor College of Medicine

“Advocacy and public awareness [for neglected tropical diseases] fell to us, a tiny group of scientists who were passionate about diseases such as hookworm, schistosomiasis, leishmaniasis, and Chagas disease; the most important diseases you’ve never heard of. For many of these NTDs we need better technologies, including vaccines. Our team began to develop new vaccines, known as “antipoverty vaccines” because of their ability to not only improve health but also eliminate the poverty-promoting effects of these diseases.”

EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases

Accepted by Founder and Board Member Emil Kakkis, M.D., Ph.D., and patient advocate Max Schill

Dr. Kakkis: “Every life and every rare disease patient deserves the opportunity to be treated. We have that science now, frankly we are in the golden age of rare disease treatments. That opportunity and ability to accelerate is there now. The Foundation’s goal is to take science-based public policy through workshops and interactions with [federal] agencies and Congress to organize thoughtful, sensible improvements to what we do and try to drive as many treatments through to help the lives of rare disease patients.”

Max: “Rare is not really rare. There are over 7,000 rare diseases affecting 30 million Americans, 95% of them don’t have treatments. Treatments can take a long time to develop and cost billions. Without EveryLife I would have never learned that I can’t sit around waiting for treatments and cures. I have to fight for them.”

Geoffrey Beene Builders of Science Award

Roger I. Glass, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Fogarty International Center

“Research at this time of exponential growth in science, technology and innovation deserves, indeed demands, increased investments from the public if we are to maintain U.S. leadership in science, while creating jobs, stimulating the economy, and improving human health at home and abroad. The [National Institutes of Health] is the largest biomedical enterprise in the world to make discoveries that will change our lives and improve the health of people everywhere.”
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