Research in Context

Mary Woolley, President and CEO, Research!America

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“Accelerating Lurie Children’s Research Enterprise”
Chicago, Illinois
“If you think research is expensive, try disease.”

Mary Lasker, advocate. A founder of Research!America 1900-1994
Research!America’s Mission

Making research to improve health a higher national priority
When Advocacy Works: Bipartisan support for NIH - Highlights

- Doubling NIH budget in five years, ‘99-‘03
- Including science in ARRA funding ‘09
- $4.8 billion (over 10 years) in 21\textsuperscript{st} Century Cures Act
- $2 billion increase for NIH in FY16 and FY17 omnibus bills
- Appropriations leadership pledges continued support in FY18; House LHHS appropriations bill includes a $1.1 billion increase for NIH; Senate may do more
- \textit{Thanks to advocacy, there are more and more champions in Congress for medical and health research}
Advocacy that Won’t be Denied: Childhood Cancers

In the 1970s, only one child in 10 survived cancer.

Today, seven out of 10 children who develop cancer are alive five years after diagnosis.

Research Translates Hope to Health!
Advocacy that Won’t be Denied: HIV/AIDS

NIH funded HIV/AIDS research:
- 1982: $3.35 million
- 1985: $63.7 million
- 1995: $1.34 billion
- 2000: $2.04 billion
- 2005: $2.95 billion
- 2010: $3.01 billion
- 2015: $3.00 billion
- 2017 (est.): $3.00 billion

Sources: Federation of American Scientists, NIH RePORT
Public-Private Partnerships

High profile public-private partnerships have heightened awareness

- **The Cancer Moonshot**
  Vice President Biden has placed a strong emphasis on public-private partnerships

- **Ebola**
  The epidemic increased awareness of the importance of partnerships

- **Accelerating Medicines Partnership, Foundation for NIH**
  Develops new treatments for Alzheimer’s, diabetes, arthritis, and lupus

- **Google Life Sciences-American Heart Association**
  Collaboration to end cardiovascular disease

- **Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative**
  Partnering with academic scientists to tackle the toughest problems
Current Funding and Policy Landscape

• The FY18 budget cap on non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending is $3 billion lower than in FY17.

• Unless Congress arrives at another bipartisan budget deal to raise the budget caps, NIH is still likely to receive an increase in FY18, but in the $1 billion range instead of $2 billion. FY19 could be far worse.

• Absent a budget deal, other health and science agencies will undoubtedly receive budget cuts.

• The White House has placed a bullseye on the “F & A,” or “indirect” costs of research. Congress is blocking the “10% cap” proposal, but is holding hearings on the issue that could provoke detrimental policy changes.

• Other ways Congress can set science back:
  - “Labor-H” appropriations bills target stem cell and fetal tissue research
  - Behavioral and social science is undervalued and often attacked
President’s FY18 Budget

*Source: Washington Post*
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)
“You can change the image of things to come. But you can’t do it sitting on your hands...The science community should reach out to Congress and build bridges.”

Research!America Chair Emeritus, Former Congressman John Edward Porter
Q: What do elected officials and scientists have in common?
A: Serving the public’s interest.

Scientists: You can effectively start a conversation with an elected official by thanking them for serving the public’s interest. Then say how you serve the public’s interest.
The most important four words a researcher can say and convey to a member of the public are ...
“I work for you.”
Research!America Works for You

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