September 22, 2016

Lester Holt
NBC News
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112

Anderson Cooper
CNN
One Time Warner Center
10 Columbus Circle
New York, NY 10019

Martha Raddatz
ABC News
47 West 66th Street
New York, NY 10023

Chris Wallace
Fox News Sunday
400 N Capitol Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

Elaine Quijano
CBS News
524 West 57th Street
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Holt, Mr. Cooper, Ms. Raddatz, Mr. Wallace and Ms. Quijano,

This election will be pivotal to the health of our nation and future generations as our best and brightest in the scientific community work diligently to find solutions to major health challenges such as cancer, Alzheimer’s disease, cardiovascular disease and the Zika virus. Yet only one-third of Americans say candidates running for President listen to and understand their health concerns and expectations, according to a national survey commissioned by Research!America.

Many patient advocates feel that increased federal resources and smarter pro-innovation policies are necessary to advance cutting-edge research conducted by the public and private sector that could potentially prevent and find cures for deadly diseases. It’s more important than ever that voters who are now or will be patients one day know what priority candidates place on speeding medical progress and combatting health threats in communities across the country.

Research!America members, representing academia, patient groups, industry, independent research institutes, scientific societies and foundations, urge you to pose questions to the presidential and vice presidential candidates during the upcoming debates about what they would do to advance medical progress. How would they ensure research and innovation is a priority for their administration? What would they do in the first 100 days in office to advance research for health?

Thank you for your consideration. For more information about our national voter education initiative, visit www.campaignforcures.org.

Regards,

Mary Woolley
President and CEO