The Impact of COVID-19: Choosing the New Normal
It is more honest to frame the new, post-COVID-19 normal not as predictions, but as a series of choices.

Fate will not create the new normal; choices will.

Donald M. Berwick, KBE, former Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Journal of the American Medical Association, June 2, 2020
The Big Picture

- Overlapping crises: COVID-19 pandemic, economic downturn, massive protests for racial justice
- Uncertainty creates anxiety. Leaders and boards feel this, and so do individuals.
- Maintaining public trust is challenging in the midst of misinformation and disinformation, as well as missteps by the health and research community
- Election season is fraught - voting safely is not even assured
- Public money is being spent as never before!
“You can change the image of things to come. But you can’t do it sitting on your hands.”

Research!America Chair Emeritus, Former Congressman John Edward Porter
National Institutes of Health Appropriations
Fiscal Year 1989 – 2020

FY2020 Budget: $41.7 billion
CPI Adjusted: $20.4 billion
FY2020 Budget with COVID-19 Supplementals: $45.3 billion
CPI Adjusted: $20.4 billion
Election outlook is murky... but does it matter?

Red or Blue, funding for HSR is not going to grow unless the HSR community engages with policymakers to make the case.

This is especially true of investigator-initiated research.

- *Need to convey examples of its impact.*

HSR has an invisibility problem, and advocacy organizations alone can’t solve it.

- *Researchers must step up*
Election Opportunity

- Share the most compelling questions with candidates.
- Tell them our nation needs answers and Congress needs HSR champions.

AcademyHealth has produced a report detailing COVID-19 related questions HSR can answer.

If we don’t know where we’ve been, we can’t course-adjust.

- HSR can tell us how the healthcare system succeeded and failed the COVID-19 test, and chart the path to a more resilient healthcare system going forward.
“...public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed.”

President Abraham Lincoln
Research!America Surveys

• Commissioning public opinion surveys on research issues for 28 years:
  • National Surveys
  • State-Based Surveys
  • Issue-Specific Surveys
• Online surveys are conducted with a sample size of 1000-2000 adults and sampling error of +/-3.1% to +/-2.1%. The data are weighted in two stages to ensure accurate representation of the U.S. adult population.
Americans Think More Progress in Health Research is Needed

Do you believe we are making enough progress in health research in the U.S.?

- Yes: 28%
- No: 53%
- Not sure: 19%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in December 2019.
A Strong Majority Support Medical and Health Research Seeking to Understand and Eliminate Health Disparities

Studies show that certain health problems such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and infant mortality happen more often among minorities or citizens with lower incomes. How important do you feel it is to conduct medical or health research to understand and eliminate these differences?

% saying “very important up 20% since 2017

- Very important: 58%
- Somewhat important: 31%
- Not very important: 1%
- Not at all important: 4%
- Not sure: 5%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
## Important to Conduct Research to Eliminate Health Disparities

How important do you feel it is to conduct medical or health research to understand and eliminate these differences?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not Too Important</th>
<th>Not at All Important</th>
<th>Not Sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2020</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2019</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2017</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2016</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 2015</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 2013</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 2012</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 2011</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May. 2010</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 2009</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 2008</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Research!America surveys of U.S. adults conducted between 2008 and 2020
Strong Majority of Americans Think Health Care Outcomes Research is Important

How important is research that examines health care outcomes, health care efficiency, and quality, safety and effectiveness in health care?

- Very important: 65%
- Somewhat important: 29%
- Not very important: 3%
- Not at all important: 0%
- Not sure: 4%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Americans Think Various Entities Should Take Responsibility for Conducting Health Care Research

Which entities should take responsibility for conducting research on quality, safety, and effectiveness in health care? (choose all that apply)

- Federal government: 66%
- Hospitals and health care providers: 60%
- Health insurance companies: 50%
- Universities: 35%
- Nonprofits and foundations: 32%
- Trade associations: 8%
- Other: 4%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2020
Confidence in different groups

More Americans have a great deal of confidence in medical scientists now than before the outbreak

% of U.S. adults who say they have a great deal or fair amount of confidence in each of the following groups to act in the best interests of the public

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or who did not give an answer are not shown. In 2016, the question asked about K-12 principals and superintendents.
Source: Survey conducted April 20-26, 2020.
"Trust in Medical Scientists Has Grown in U.S., but Mainly Among Democrats"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
### Partisan gaps in trust in scientists have grown over past year

% of U.S. adults who say they have a ___ (of) confidence in each of the following groups to act in the best interests of the public

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Medical scientists</th>
<th>Scientists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Great deal</td>
<td>Fair amount</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. adults</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican/lean Rep</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat/lean Dem</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Growing partisan differences over trust in medical scientists and scientists since the COVID-19 outbreak

% of U.S. adults who have a great deal of confidence in each group to act in the best interests of the public

- **Medical scientists**
  - Rep/lean Dem: 2019: 32%, 2020: 37%

- **Scientists**
  - Dem/lean Dem: 2019: 52%, 2020: 52%

Note: Respondents who gave other responses or who did not give an answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted April 20-26, 2020.

“Trust in Medical Scientists Has Grown in U.S., but Mainly Among Democrats”

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Partisan divides in vaccine hesitancy

If a Vaccine that Protected You From the Coronavirus Was Available for Free, Would You...?

- **All adults**: 71%一定会 or probably get it, 27% definitely or probably NOT get it
- **Democrats**: 81%一定会, 17% definitely or probably NOT get it
- **Independents**: 72%一定会, 25% definitely or probably NOT get it
- **Republicans**: 58%一定会, 40% definitely or probably NOT get it

**SOURCE**: ABC News/Washington Post Poll; May 25-28, 2020
Majority of Americans think scientists should take an active role in policy

But more Democrats than Republicans feel this way

% of U.S. adults who say scientists should ___ when it comes to public policy debates about scientific issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Take an active role</th>
<th>Focus on establishing sound scientific facts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep/lean Rep</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem/lean Dem</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

% of U.S. adults who say that scientific experts are ___ at making good policy decisions about scientific issues than other people

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Usually better</th>
<th>Neither better nor worse</th>
<th>Usually worse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rep/lean Rep</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem/lean Dem</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Respondents who did not give an answer are not shown.
“Trust in Medical Scientists Has Grown in U.S., but Mainly Among Democrats”

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Sustaining the public trust is crucial to social solidarity, to the relation of societies with each other, and to international peace and stability.

Nations cohere and flourish on the belief that their institutions can foresee calamity, arrest its impact and restore stability. When the Covid-19 pandemic is over, many countries’ institutions will be perceived as having failed. Whether this judgment is objectively fair is irrelevant. The reality is the world will never be the same after the coronavirus. To argue now about the past only makes it harder to do what has to be done.

“April 3, 2020

“The Coronavirus Pandemic Will Forever Alter the World Order,” Henry Kissinger in the Wall Street Journal
Research!America Works for You

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mwoolley@researchamerica.org