Impact of COVID19: Creating the New Normal for Research
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.
Our Choices Matter

- Choosing to wear a mask
- Choosing to make sure all voices are at the table
- Choosing to get a flu shot
- Choosing to value multiple career paths
- Choosing to speak up for science
- Choosing to "hand the microphone" to others to allow them space to speak
Unprecedented challenges call for well-prepared leaders like YOU

Four of Five of Americans Agree: It’s Time for an Urgent Refocus on Science

Which statement is closest to your view? Statement A: The COVID-19 pandemic is a disruptive event and requires urgent refocusing of America's commitment to science. Statement B: Things will get back to normal soon; we don't need increased efforts in science.

Research!America’s Mission

The Research!America alliance advocates for science, discovery, and innovation to achieve better health for all.

Research!America is an innovator in advocacy for research

@researchamerica  research_america
We bring stakeholders together to heighten the priority of research and to help assure scientific progress and the health and vitality of the scientific enterprise.
Research!America Strategies for Success

- Keep a finger on public pulse via public opinion surveys
- Develop timely policy and advocacy resources
- Continuously cultivate new advocates and congressional champions
- Execute grassroots/grasstops advocacy campaigns
- Monitor and share federal developments
- Convene cross-sector discussions to inform research-relevant policy issues
- Work with the broad science community to assure all boats will rise
State of Play

- The government has been flat-funded through a “Continuing Resolution” (CR) until December 11, 2020.
- Timing of final FY21 funding depends on post-election dynamics
- COVID-19 supplemental funding could be combined with another CR through early 2021
  - Advocating for $26B to restart research
- EO stripping certain civil servants of employment protections - risk losing independent personnel who can leverage and advance science and provide impartial counsel to political appointees
- Continued immigration actions by the Administration making it harder for foreign-born scientists to study and work in the U.S.
“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
“...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.
- For many surveys, we oversample minority populations.
Hope is Down, but Joy is on the Rise

Which one of the following best describes what you feel when you hear the word 'science'?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hope</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Caution</th>
<th>Joy</th>
<th>Boredom</th>
<th>Fear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in August 2020 (Unpublished data; do not cite); Science Counts, Fall 2017
In general, to what extent do you think the work that scientists do benefits you?

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in August 2020
Urgent and High Priorities for Americans - Science Can Help

How much of a priority are each of the following issues for the United States and how can science technology, and innovation help address them? (Top 6 responses)

- Ending COVID-19: 81% Urgent or High Priority, 68% Science can help a lot
- Finding new ways of preventing, treating, and curing illnesses other than COVID-19: 81% Urgent or High Priority, 67% Science can help a lot
- Assuring food supply: 80% Urgent or High Priority, 56% Science can help a lot
- Assuring a safe drinking water supply: 79% Urgent or High Priority, 60% Science can help a lot
- Improving the public health system: 78% Urgent or High Priority, 65% Science can help a lot
- Driving economic growth; creating jobs: 78% Urgent or High Priority, 54% Science can help a lot

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in August 2020
Strong Support for Federally Supported Scientific Research in Universities

As you may know, the federal government provides public funds to universities to conduct basic scientific research. Do you approve or disapprove of the federal government spending to sponsor scientific research at universities?

Majority Concerned about STEM Representation

How concerned are you about each of the following - Black and Hispanic STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) students are greatly underrepresented in the number of doctorates awarded in the STEM fields.

Many people say that more needs to be done to ensure the United States is prepared not just for future pandemics but for any other unpredictable catastrophe - would you support or oppose... federally supported scholarships for science, technology, engineering, and math students, so that the nation has a stronger pool of scientific talent?

Unpublished data; do not cite.
Public Trust in Institutions Decreasing

Public trust in the federal government has been low for more than a decade

% who say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time

Confidence in Education: By Participants' Level of Education, 1973–2018

Trust in Institutions v. Individuals
More Americans have a great deal of confidence in medical scientists now than before the pandemic.

% 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:

- **Medical scientists:** 89%
- **Scientists:** 87%

Source: Pew Research Center
Confidence in Medical Professionals and Scientists is Especially High

How much confidence do you have in each of the following to act in your best interest -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>A great deal</th>
<th>A fair amount</th>
<th>Not too much</th>
<th>None at all</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nurses</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctors</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientists</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police officers</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public health officials</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military leaders</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious leaders</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College and university professors</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public school principals (K-12)</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business leaders</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected officials</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trust in College and University Professors Across Subgroups

How much confidence do you have in each of the following to act in your best interest - college and university professors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>A great deal + a fair amount</th>
<th>Not too much + not at all</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Adults (national sample)</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African Americans</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most Americans Cannot Name a Living Scientist

Can you name a living scientist?

- **Yes**: 29%
- **No/Not Sure**: 75%

*Anthony Fauci*: 24%
- **Neil DeGrasse Tyson**: 10%
- **Bill Nye**: 8%
- **Stephen Hawking***: 4%
- **Timothy Berners-Lee**: 3%
- **Jane Goodall**: 2%
- **Alain Aspect**: 2%
- **Albert Einstein***: 2%
- **Alan Guth**: 1.5%
- **Bill Gates**: 1%
- **Elon Musk**: 1%

*Deceased
Increase by 9% of those saying “yes” since 2019

More Than Half of Americans Do Not Know That Research is Conducted in All 50 States

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

- Yes: 44%
- No/Not sure: 56%

Increase the Visibility of Science
COVID-19 has pushed science to the forefront of public attention. Experiencing science in “real time” → This is new for scientists too.

Scientists are not trained to engage the public.

We propose federally-funded PhD students get specific training.

Participate in a Public Engagement (PE) course.

Ensure that new generations of scientists are increasingly visible and comfortable with the broader community → increase trust of and support for science, stronger interest in STEM careers, stronger, science-driven economy.

Mary Woolley, Jenny Luray, and Sarah Ackerman, September 2020
Beyond 2020: A Vision and Pathway for NIH

*Includes recommendation for “An NIH-trained workforce that is fluent in the public context of science.”

If you think research is expensive, try disease”
-Philanthropist and Advocate Mary Lasker (1984)

A 2020 version: “If you think science preparedness is expensive, try a pandemic.”

To sustain and strengthen our leadership, to continue our advances in understanding, preventing, treating, and curing human diseases, and to address immediate and future health threats, the NIH must adopt bold new approaches to training and supporting a research community that has been transformed by 75 years of changes in technology and society.
Beyond 2020: A Vision and Pathway for NIH

The most effective ecosystem to advance discovery and accelerate the translation of new knowledge into benefits for human health embraces the following:

- Fundamental discovery
- Risk-taking
- Open science
- Integrity and accountability
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Global collaboration
- Sustainability

https://www.coalitionforlifesciences.org/beyond-2020-a-vision-and-pathway-for-nih/
A SEA Change at AAAS:
STEMM Equity Achievement

SEA Change supports institutional transformation in support of diversity, equity, and inclusion, beginning with AAAS itself.

Data coverage for both gender and ethnicity has room for improvement.

Males outnumber females 2:1 across all AAAS/Science Functions (total) and Science Family Authors and Reviewers.

All AAAS/Science Functions and Science Family Authors and Reviewers are predominately White (non-Hispanic).

Nomination-based functions and subgroups are more lopsided toward males and White (non-Hispanic) people than application-based functions and subgroups.

https://seachange.aaas.org/
Board on Higher Education and Workforce: Recent Reports of Note

- Closing the Equity Gap: Securing our STEM Education and Workforce Readiness
- Presidential Town Halls on COVID-19 and Systemic Racism
- Action Collaborative on Preventing Sexual Harassment in Higher Education
- Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19 on the Careers of Women in Academic Science, Engineering and Medicine
- Faculty Promotion and Advancement in Higher Education*

*special focus on identifying practices and policies that reward faculty for participating in activities such as outreach and public engagement

www.nationalacademies.org
Advocacy Action on Campus

- Sponsor and support student science policy groups on your campus
- Partner with communications faculty
- Stay connected to university federal relations staff

Research!America Civic Engagement Microgrants will be accepting a second round of applications no later than December 12.

https://www.researchamerica.org/microgrants
Research!America Works for You

Connect with us

www.researchamerica.org
www.facebook.com/researchamerica.org
www.twitter.com/researchamerica
www.youtube.com/researchamerica
mwoolley@researchamerica.org