We Are All Advocates
Recognizing Your Honorees

Bob and Helen Bartee

- Bob: Longtime advocate for the University of Nebraska Medical Center
- Helen: Resolute advocate for children

Don Coulter, MD

- Dedicated physician and researcher; educates and advocates to community and policy-makers
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 Alliance

We bring stakeholders together to work jointly to heighten the priority of research and to help assure scientific progress and the health and vitality of the scientific enterprise.
Advocacy Priorities for 2021

- Robust funding increases for NIH, CDC, FDA, NSF, AHRQ
- At least $25 billion to fill FY20 research funding gaps associated with COVID-19
- Assure our nation dramatically strengthens our R&D and public health capacity to address known and future threats
- Advance health equity
  - Diversity in clinical trials
National Institutes of Health Appropriations
Fiscal Year 1989 - 2021

National Institutes of Health Appropriations
Fiscal Year 1989 - 2021 in Current and Constant Dollars

- Appropriations (current dollars)
- CPI adjusted (1989 dollars)
- with Emergency Funding (ARRA and COVID-19)

FY2021 Omnibus Appropriations with Emergency Funding: $47.77 billion
FY2021 Omnibus Appropriations: $42.93 billion
CPI Adjusted - FY2021 Omnibus Appropriations: $20.57 billion
State of Play: Research $

- The President’s “skinny” FY22 budget (expanded budget to follow) includes:
  - Funding increases for NIH, CDC, and NSF
  - Proposes creation of a multi-billion ($) “ARPA-H” within NIH
- No budget caps are in place but it’s possible some in Congress may push for them, precluding funding increases
- “American Jobs Plan” includes $ for R&D & preparedness but how funds would be used is unclear
Take Action Today!

We have all seen the value of research over the past year. *Now is the time to engage about continued investments in our nation’s R&D.*

Scan the QR code to Tweet @POTUS and Congressional leadership to say thank you for their bipartisan support for robust funding to strengthen U.S. R&D capacity and speed medical and public health progress!

@researchamerica
“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
Who Represents You?

Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE)

Senator Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Senator Ben Sasse (R-NE)

Senate Finance Committee

Congressman Don Bacon (R-NE-2)

Senate Budget Committee

Live or vote off campus? Visit https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials to find those who represent you!
COVID-19 is a disruptive event that requires a higher priority for science and technology

Which statement is closest to your view? Statement A: The COVID-19 pandemic is a disruptive event and requires that the United States assign a higher priority to science and technology. Statement B: Things will get back to normal soon; we don't need increased efforts in science.

“...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.
There has been a great deal more attention to science during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some people say that science in general is now more trusted because of this heightened awareness; others disagree. Which would you say applies to you?

- 46% have more trust in science than they did a year ago
- 37% have less trust in science than they did a year ago
- 18% have no change in their level of trust in science

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2021
Americans have confidence in doctors, nurses, scientists, and public health officials

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

Source: A Research!America survey of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2021
Three Quarters of Americans Cannot Name a Living Scientist

Can you name a living scientist?

Of those saying “yes”, Dr. Fauci named by 35% from 24% in August 2020.

Total saying “yes” increased from 20% in 2019 to 27% in 2021.

More Than Half Americans Cannot Name a Place Where Medical or Health Research is Conducted

Can you name any institution, company or organization where medical or health research is conducted?

- Yes: 46%
- No/Not sure: 54%

- Pfizer: 14%
- CDC: 11%
- Mayo Clinic: 9%
- Johns Hopkins University: 7%
- WHO: 5%
- NIH: 5%
- Johnson & Johnson: 3%
- Moderna: 3%
- St. Jude's: 3%
- Harvard: 1%
- Astra Zeneca: 1%
- Cleveland Clinic: 1%
- Duke University: 1%
- Other: 37%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2021

*since January 2020
Many Americans are unaware that medical research takes place in all 50 states

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

We Are All Advocates: Increase the Visibility of Science
Strong Majority of Americans Think Scientists Should Inform the Public About Their Research

How important is it for scientists to inform the public about their research and its impact on society?

- Very important: 59%
- Somewhat important: 32%
- Not very important: 5%
- Not at all important: 2%
- Not sure: 1%

Source: A ResearchAmerica poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2021
Strong Majority of Americans Think Scientists Should Inform Elected Officials About Their Research

How important is it for scientists to inform elected officials about their research and its impact on society?

- 59% Very important
- 30% Somewhat important
- 4% Not very important
- 5% Not at all important
- 0% Not sure

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2021
How Do We Shape The Future?

Effective advocacy

Listen

Engage

Relate
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
2018-2021 Microgrant Recipients
Advocacy Action From Your “Desk”

- Email, tweet, or call your member of Congress
- Stay informed — read our Weekly Letter
- Join our alliance member webinars and calls
- Talk to your friends and neighbors
- Engage everyone in your department in public outreach activities

https://www.researchamerica.org/contact-members-congress
Aspirational Communications

THEN

• Early 1960s: 5-year survival rate for children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia = less than 10%

NOW

• Advances in detection and treatments
• 2019: 5-year survival rate for children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia = more than 85%

IMAGINE

• A cure for all childhood cancers

Research finds solutions to what ails us!

“Beyond Survival,” Science, Jennifer Couzin-Frankel, March 2019
Remember

We are all advocates....
We are all patients
Research!America Advocates With You

Connect with us

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mwoolley@researchamerica.org