

Research!America's 20th Anniversary Advocacy Awards

March 16, 2016

Acceptance Speech: Harold Varmus, M.D.,

Recipient of the *Legacy Award*

I have learned at least one thing from attending dinners like this one: it is enough to say: "I am unworthy, but thank you!" And then sit down.

Normally that would suffice. Tonight, it would also be heartfelt.

But I want to say one other thing at this perilous moment in American history.

It is now not enough to say that we need medical research to improve health, to extend lives, or to sustain the economy. We need to preserve and promote our science---in all of its forms--- because it represents the best of what we have been ---and must continue to be ---as a nation.

For at our core, we are:

--curious;

--pioneering;

--receptive to new ideas;

--welcoming to all those who have those ideas, and come here from anywhere to pursue them; and

--are ready to work with others, anywhere in the world, to promote human welfare through science.

In other words:

"Research" AND "America", inextricably linked. Sustain that connection; shout it out fearlessly; and emphasize that exclamation point in these parlous times. Thank you!