Does the Public Trust Science?: Trust and Confidence at the Intersections of the Life Sciences and Society - Vaccine breakout session

Washington DC
May 6, 2015
# Most Trusted Spokespersons for Science?

How trustworthy do you consider each of the following to be as spokespersons for science?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Very trustworthy</th>
<th>Somewhat trustworthy</th>
<th>Not very trustworthy</th>
<th>Not at all trustworthy</th>
<th>Not sure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientists</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care professionals</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient organizations</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journalists</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloggers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business leaders</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elected officials</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2014
How important is it that elected officials at all levels listen to advice from scientists?

- **Very Important**: 38%
- **Somewhat Important**: 42%
- **Not Too Important**: 10%
- **Not At All Important**: 8%
- **Not Sure**: 2%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in January 2015.
Most Americans Can’t Name a Living Scientist

Please name a living scientist.

70%
30%

I can

I cannot

Stephen Hawking 43%
Neil Degrasse Tyson 6%
Bill Nye 5%
Jane Goodall 5%
James Watson 3%
Richard Dawkins 2%
Michio Kaku 2%
Mehmet Oz 1%
Other 33%

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics, with support from the American Society of Hematology, in November 2013.
Most Americans Don’t Know Where Research is Conducted

Please name any institution, company or organization where medical or health research is conducted.

- I can (56%)
- I cannot (44%)

Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics, with support from the American Society of Hematology, in November 2013.
Public Confidence in the Safety of Vaccines on Decline

How confident are you in our current system in the U.S. for evaluating the safety of vaccines and recommendations for when they should be given?

Source: Public Opinion Polls, 2008-2015
Opinions Vary by Issue

68% of U.S. adults surveyed agree with scientists that childhood vaccines, such as MMR, should be required.

Source: A Pew/AAAS survey, “Public and Scientists’ Views on Science and Society” published in January 2015
“Let the science speak”
California Senate Bill 277 eliminates the Personal Belief Exemption for vaccination, and would deny a child the right of a classroom education if their parents chose to exempt them from one, some or any of California's state-mandated vaccines.

Source: 2015 survey commissioned by The Canary Party.