



November 11, 2015

**OFFICERS**

The Hon. John Edward Porter, Chair  
The Hon. Michael N. Castle, Vice Chair  
Mary Woolley, President  
E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Secretary  
Lucinda Maine, PhD, RPh, Treasurer

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Tenley E. Albright, MD  
Hortensia Amaro, PhD  
Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Nancy Brown  
Susan Dentzer  
Victor J. Dzau, MD  
Joseph M. Feczko, MD  
Jay A. Gershen, DDS, PhD  
William N. Hait, MD, PhD  
Larry Hausner, MBA  
Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD  
Martha N. Hill, PhD, RN  
Rush D. Holt, PhD  
Harry Johns  
Evan Jones  
Elizabeth Baker Keffer  
Debra R. Lappin, JD  
Alan I. Leshner, PhD  
James L. Madara, MD  
Mark McClellan, MD, PhD  
The Hon. Kweisi Mfume  
Herbert Pardes, MD  
Sudip S. Parikh, PhD  
Amy Comstock Rick, JD  
Larry J. Shapiro, MD  
Laing Rogers Sisto  
Gregory Sorensen, MD  
Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD  
Elias A. Zerhouni, MD

**IN MEMORIAM**

Jack T. Watters, MD

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Farr  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug  
Administration, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Moran, Chairman Aderholt, Ranking Member Merkley and Ranking Member Farr,

I am writing on behalf of Research!America, the nation's largest nonprofit alliance working to accelerate medical progress and strengthen our nation's public health system. We appreciate your leadership over the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittees, which allocate funding to agencies and programs crucial to the economic strength of America and the wellbeing of the Americans. As you consider funding for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16), we ask that you provide at least \$2.8 billion to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The FDA plays a pivotal role in the lives of Americans. It not only oversees the use of prescription medicines and medical devices, but monitors 80 percent of the U.S. food supply. In fact, a quarter of all consumer spending is on FDA-regulated products. We expect the FDA to assure that these products meet the high standards Americans deserve, and, because lives may hang in the balance, to do so as quickly as possible. The FDA needs adequate resources to meet those expectations. The stakes are high.

The FDA has continued to seek out new and innovative ways to save lives. Programs like Fast Track, Breakthrough Therapy, Accelerated Approval, and Priority Review demonstrate the agency's commitment to minimizing the time from bench to bedside for crucially needed medical advances. The FDA relies on federal funding to get these vital innovations to patients as quickly as possible without sacrificing safety or efficacy. If the innovation pipeline slows, lives are lost.

1101 King Street  
Suite 520  
Alexandria, VA 22314-2960  
P 703.739.2577  
F 703.739.2372  
E [info@researchamerica.org](mailto:info@researchamerica.org)  
[www.researchamerica.org](http://www.researchamerica.org)

Please equip the FDA to fulfill its profoundly important responsibilities by providing at least \$2.8 billion for the agency in FY16. Thank you for your stewardship over American priorities and for considering our input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mary Woolley  
President and CEO