Super Tuesday for MS Research

Mary Woolley, President, Research!America

March 6, 2012

National MS Society Public Policy Conference
Alexandria, VA
It’s Super Tuesday!

- 20 presidential debates have been held to date
- 11 states have already held presidential primaries or caucuses
- 11 more are voting today
- Every state will hold a congressional primary
- Little discussion of research for health despite 24/7 media attention on candidates
- Will November 6 be a Super Tuesday for research?
Unsettled Climate for Research

- Overriding concern re: job creation, economic growth and competitiveness
- Threat of sequestration
- Extreme polarization of election-year politics
- Health care issues, especially cost issues
- Influence of the Tea Party
- Research advocates are not speaking out in force and in unanimity
To our valued customers:

We are sad to say we are permanently closing our doors at Mistral on December 20th. We have enjoyed our time here at the Ferry Bldg. and have valued your support.

You can contact us at

The

“Gallup Poll: Record-Low 10% Approve of Congress”
(usatoday.com, Feb. 8, 2012)
Research is Still Popular and Hasn’t Been Forced out of Business, But Consider...

- The Beijing Genomics Institute has more capacity to sequence human genomes than all U.S. genome centers combined
- The U.S. ranks sixth in R&D spending as a percentage of GDP
- The FY11 budget funded only one in six NIH grant applications, the lowest rate on record
- The funding and policy outlook is grim
National Institutes of Health

Budget Authority, FY 2005-2012

Sources: NIH Office of Budget, House Committee on Appropriations.
China On the Rise

“U.S. R&D expenditures accounted for about 31% of the worldwide total, down from 38% a decade earlier. The combined R&D expenditures of 10 Asian economies [including China and Japan] rose steadily to reach U.S. levels in 2009, driven mostly by China, now the second largest R&D performing nation.”

Source: National Science Board, Science and Engineering Indicators 2012
FY13 Budget: President’s Request

- Level-funded NIH
- Severe cut to CDC
- Increase to FDA, due mostly to industry fees
- Bump up for NSF
- Increase for AHRQ

Photo: griffin.house.gov
Source: nature.com, HHS

Advisory only: delivered to Congress on Feb. 13, 2012
Scientists Should Have Most Influence over Research Funding

Which one of the following do you feel should have the most influence on how government funds for research to improve health are spent?

- Scientists who conduct research to improve health: 53%
- Patients with various diseases and their families: 36%
- Elected officials: 11%

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
Key Congressional Decision Makers

Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY)  Chair, House Appropriations Committee

Rep. Dennis Rehberg (R-MT)  Chair, House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee

Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-HI)  Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA)  Chair, LHHS, Appropriations Subcommittee

Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)  Speaker of the House

Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA)  House Majority Leader

Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV)  Senate Majority Leader

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)  Senate Majority Whip
“Spending by government is all about priorities. Priorities will be chosen, and money will be spent. We have to be sure that our priorities are included in the discussion.”

Research!America Chair and Former Congressman John Edward Porter
Research!America: 23 Years of Prioritizing Research on the Public Agenda

- Nonprofit alliance with member organizations drawn from academia, business, patient organizations and scientific societies representing more than 125 million Americans
- Distinguished, all-volunteer board includes former elected and appointed officials, media and public relations leaders, and leaders from alliance member organizations
Our Key Objectives

• Increase investment in domestic health-related R&D
• Increase investment in global health-related R&D
• Ensure that R&D investments reach patients by improving the policy environment
• Promote science overall and counter attacks made on science
Select Research!America
Accomplishments:

- Leadership in advocacy for 2009 ARRA (stimulus) funding for federal research agencies
- Leadership in advocacy for FY12 NIH budget increase
- Ongoing leadership in:
  - public opinion polling on medical and health research
  - message development for research advocacy
  - media attention to research
What Can We Learn from 1995?

- The initial draft of the congressional budget included a 5% cut in NIH funding for five straight years—25% total
- John Edward Porter, then-Chairman of the House Appropriations LHHS Subcommittee and a hand-picked group of business leaders and Nobel laureates convinced Speaker Gingrich to reverse course
- Patient advocates and scientists spoke out to make the case for research
- NIH was protected from cuts and later, its budget was doubled

Similar:
- Recession economy
- Change of party in House from previous election

Different:
- No true champion in Congress
- Broader range of beliefs in House majority

Always:
- Decisions will be made based on priorities and monies will be appropriated
- Advocates will be heard if their voices are unified and persistent!
“The people we really listen to are the voters. Not once have I heard anyone at a public meeting ask me, ‘what are you doing for medical research?’ Not even from a researcher!”

Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), Appropriations Committee Member
“...public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it nothing can succeed.”

President Abraham Lincoln
Research!America Poll Data

- Commissioning public opinion polls on research issues for 20 years:
  - National Polls
  - State-Based Polls
  - Issue-Specific Polls
- Telephone (random-digit dialing) polls are conducted with a sample size of 800-1000 adults (age 18+) and a maximum theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.5%. Data are demographically representative of adult U.S. residents (state or national).
- Online polls are conducted with a sample size of 1000-2000 adults and sampling error of +/-3.1%. The data are weighted in two stages to ensure accurate representation of the U.S. adult population.
Americans: U.S. Losing Its Competitive Edge in Innovation

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The U.S. is losing its global competitive edge in science, technology and innovation.”

Source: National Public Opinion Poll, October 2011, JZ Analytics for Research!America
Research is Part of the Solution to Rising Health Care Costs

When it comes to rising health care costs, would you say research to improve health is part of the problem or part of the solution?

- Part of the solution: 54%
- Part of the problem: 24%
- Not sure: 22%

Source: National Public Opinion Poll, October 2011, JZ Analytics for Research!America
Americans Think R&D is Important to State Economies

How important do you think research and development is to your state’s economy?

41% Very important
50% Somewhat important
8% Not too important
1% Not at all important

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
Investing in Health Research
Important to Job Creation, Recovery

How important is investing in health research to job creation and economic recovery?

- **Very important**: 50%
- **Somewhat important**: 36%
- **Somewhat unimportant**: 8%
- **Very unimportant**: 3%
- **Not sure**: 3%

Source: National Public Opinion Poll, October 2011, JZ Analytics for Research!America
## Research is an Economic Driver

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Jobs Supported by NIH Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Idaho/Montana/Wyoming</td>
<td>2,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
<td>10,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>2,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>39,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohio</td>
<td>16,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>7,108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>1,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>16,667</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>U.S.</strong></td>
<td><strong>484,939</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: UCSF; United for Medical Research
Would you say government investment in health research for the benefit of military veterans and service members is ...

- 33%: About right
- 14%: Not enough
- 5%: Too much
- 48%: Not sure

Source: National Public Opinion Poll, October 2011, JZ Analytics for Research!America
Social Math: Research Takes Cents

- In 2011, Americans were expected to spend $4.14 billion on St. Patrick’s Day.

- That sum would fund MS research at NIH and the MS Society for more than 25 years!

Sources: National Retail Federation; NIH FY2011; National MS Society 2010 Annual Report
In late February, Apple’s market capitalization topped $500 billion.

That sum would fund MS research at the National Institutes of Health for nearly 4,100 years!

Sources: CNBC; NIH FY2011
Research is an Economic Driver

- NIH funding in 2010 led to the creation of 484,939 jobs
- The $3.8 billion spent by the government on the Human Genome Project resulted in an economic impact of $796 billion
- The U.S. biomedical sector directly and indirectly employs 5 million people
- Cutting research is NOT a deficit reduction strategy

Sources: United for Medical Research; Battelle; Milken Institute
Most Don’t Know Their Elected Officials’ Positions on Research

How well informed would you say you are about the positions of your senators and representative when it comes to their support of medical, health and scientific research?

- Very well informed: 8%
- Somewhat well informed: 7%
- Somewhat uninformed: 24%
- Very uninformed: 25%
- Not sure: 36%

Source: National Public Opinion Poll, October 2011, JZ Analytics for Research!America
Your Candidates-Your Health for the 2012 Elections

- Outreach to candidates: Candidates for federal office will be invited to participate by providing responses to a questionnaire about health, research and related issues.
- Extensive public outreach through the Research!America advocacy network and sponsoring partners to encourage candidates for federal office to share their views.

Become a Fan on Facebook

www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org
We Thank Our Your Candidates-
Your Health Sponsors
Tips for Talking with Your Delegation

• Thank them for their service; compliment their leadership
• Know their positions; know where MS research is conducted in their area/state
• Anticipate the tough questions
  • Why isn’t research moving faster?
  • What do you want me to do?
• Don’t be afraid to talk about money
• Championing research is a strategy that gets you re-elected!
Advocates can and do change everything: Don’t let your voice be denied!