2007 Advocacy Awards Gala

2007 National Forum

U.S. Investment in Research: Assuring Domestic and Global Dividends

L-R: Martin Mackay, PhD; Elias A. Zerhouni, MD; Carolyn M. Clancy, MD; George H. Atkinson, PhD; David Gergen; Susan Dentzer; Freda Lewis-Hall, MD; Julie Louise Gerberding, MD, MPH; Christopher A. Viehbacher; Father Thomas G. Streit, CSC, PhD
George Stephanopoulos, chief Washington correspondent, ABC News, anchor of ABC’s “This Week” served as our master of ceremonies.

“We get more for our money when we invest in health research than any other investment.”

—George Stephanopoulos

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (Utah) was recognized with Research!America’s pinnacle award, the Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy. The Senator was honored for his past and continuing work to advance medical and health research, including his ongoing support for growth in the National Institutes of Health and his enduring commitment to stem cell research.

Award benefactor
Whitehead Charitable Foundation

“You have my word that I will continue to fight for embryonic stem cell research legislation until it’s signed into law.”

—Sen. Orrin G. Hatch

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Mike Wallace, mental health research advocate and CBS News correspondent emeritus, was presented with the Isadore Rosenfeld Award for Impact on Public Opinion. Wallace has brought new understanding and hope to sufferers of depression and other mental illnesses. He has reached millions regarding the promise of psychiatric research and the needs of psychiatric patients through his memoir Between You and Me and his 2005 farewell interview on “60 Minutes,” for which he had been a correspondent since its 1968 premiere.

Award benefactor

Rosenfeld Heart Foundation

“The Depression is not a stigma because of Mike Wallace’s honesty and candor. His passion and credibility have made him a powerful and effective advocate.”

—Isadore Rosenfeld, MD

The Raymond and Beverly Sackler Award for Sustained National Leadership was presented to David Satcher, MD, PhD, director, Center of Excellence on Health Disparities and Poussaint-Satcher-Cosby Chair in Mental Health at Morehouse School of Medicine. Satcher served as Surgeon General of the United States from 1998-2002 and founded the National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse. His work transformed the nation’s approach to public health because of his insistence that policy be based on solid research, and he spearheaded efforts to have more of a national focus on health disparities, mental health, suicide prevention and obesity.

Award benefactor

Gordon and Llura Gund

“I’ve seen America the ugly and America the beautiful. I will never give in to America the ugly, and I will never give up on America the beautiful. One day we will have universal access to health care, solidly funded research and will eliminate disparities in health.”

—David Satcher, MD, PhD

Susan Axelrod, president and founder of Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy (CURE), received the Gordon and Llura Gund Volunteer Leadership Award. Axelrod launched CURE in 1998 with two other mothers who, like Axelrod, have children struggling with epilepsy. Her efforts helped CURE raise $7 million and award more than 50 research grants to date. She was instrumental in organizing the CURE–National Institutes of Health conference “Curing Epilepsy—Focus on the Future.”

Award benefactors

Gordon and Llura Gund

“Epilepsy can rob children of their potential and parents of their dreams and hopes. Twenty-five years after my daughter was diagnosed, it is unacceptable that we still don’t have answers to this age-old problem. We will continue this fight.”

—Susan Axelrod
Research!America’s new Builders of Science Award recognizes individuals who have helped establish a research facility or build the credentials and reputation of an existing institution. The inaugural Builders of Science Award went to Donald W. Seldin, MD and Nobel Laureates Michael Brown, MD and Joseph Goldstein, MD, for their collaborative work to build the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center into a top-ranked institution. Brown and Goldstein, who together received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1985 for their discoveries concerning the regulation of cholesterol metabolism, are regental professors at the medical center. Seldin is chair in internal medicine.

“Institutions are important to science and research. There’s no replacement for driven individuals, but they must be encased in an environment that is supportive, engaging and interactive.”

—Donald W. Seldin, MD

The Paul G. Rogers Distinguished Organization Advocacy Award was presented to the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research for its bold and effective work since 2001 to ensure that the voices of patients, scientists and physicians are heard in the debate over stem cell research and the future of regenerative medicine. Sean Tipton, CAMR president, accepted the award. The award is named for The Honorable Paul G. Rogers, a former Congressman, renowned advocate for health and Research!America chair emeritus.

Award benefactor

Hogan & Hartson LLP

“We have a lot of work left to do to fund embryonic stem cell research. We won’t rest until it’s funded and we can ensure every American has a fighting chance at the quality of life we all deserve.”

—Sean Tipton of CAMR
U.S. INVESTMENT IN RESEARCH: ASSURING DOMESTIC AND GLOBAL DIVIDENDS

Health diplomacy; global public health; medical and scientific advances; health, science and research policies; personalized medicine; and public/private partnerships were among topics discussed at the 2007 Research!America National Forum “U.S. Investment in Research: Assuring Domestic and Global Dividends.” Nearly 200 people—including industry leaders, heads of federal agencies and other stakeholders in research and health—attended the March 20 event at the National Press Club. Voice of America covered the forum.

**Moderator.** David Gergen, editor-at-large, *U.S. News & World Report* and former White House adviser

“Our powers of research can be shared around the world, and health diplomacy is one of many diplomatic tools of soft power available to the U.S.”

**George H. Atkinson, PhD.** science and technology adviser to the Secretary of State

“The United States must define itself as a champion of science, not just as a leader of science.”

**Carolyn M. Clancy, MD.** director, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

“Imagine individualized treatment: the right care, for the right person at the right time, every time.”

**Susan Dentzer,** health correspondent, “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer” on PBS

“The American public is for biomedical research because they know instinctively that it pays off.”

Research!America extends grateful thanks to our National Forum sponsors:

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Julie Louise Gerberding, MD, MPH, director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

“At the CDC we see a world that has some pretty big problems, and these problems affect the promise research brings.”

Freda Lewis-Hall, MD, senior vice president, U.S. Pharmaceuticals Medical Affairs, Bristol-Myers Squibb

“I’m in awe of what research has won us in 30 years.”

Martin Mackay, PhD, vice president, Pfizer Global Research & Development, senior vice president, Worldwide Development

“More collaboration is being undertaken at Pfizer, to the great benefit of all.”

Father Thomas G. Streit, CSC, PhD, director, Haiti Program, Center for Global Health and Infectious Diseases, University of Notre Dame, and Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research Ambassador

“Working in global public health allows young people to express their national idealism and technical savvy.”

Christopher A. Viehbacher, president, U.S. Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline

“Through research, the United States can have a very positive impact on diplomacy.”

Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, director, National Institutes of Health

“This century is going to be science driven. The 20th century saw the discovery of the hardware of life, and the 21st century will be about understanding life’s software.”