Medical Research is a Priority in Montana and Nationally

Mary Woolley, President, Research!America

August 15, 2011
McLaughlin Research Institute and Research!America

- MRI ranks fifth in Montana in the number of NIH research grants.
- Among Association of Independent Research Institutes members funded by the NIH, MRI ranks 54th.
- MRI is one of 23 independent research institutes that are Research!America members.

Source: NIH RePORTER; Research!America
Research!America: 22 Years of Putting Research on the Public Agenda

- Non-profit alliance with over 400 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
Research!America

Our mission:

Making research to improve health a higher national priority

Our accomplishments:

- Leadership in doubling the NIH budget
- Leadership in stem cell research advocacy
- Raising awareness of research through the media (PARADE, The New York Times, Wall Street Journal)

Research!America is an innovator in advocacy for research
Research Matters to Montana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>NIH Funding (2010)</th>
<th>NIH Funding Rank</th>
<th>Population Rank</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>$31 million</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>$8.3 million</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>$11.3 million</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>47</td>
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- Montana benefits from the NIH Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) programs, which provide opportunities for the state to greatly expand in bioscience.

Source: Research!America, Research Funding by State
Research Matters to Montana

Guest opinion: Scientific research investment pays off for Montana

Invest in Montana research, continue to reap long-term benefits

Montana is research country
Research Matters to Montana

Montana Health Facts:
- Cancer was the leading cause of death between 2003 and 2005, killing more than 8,500 Montanans.
- Heart disease was the second leading cause of death in Montana, causing more than 8,000 deaths from 2003 to 2005.
- Health challenges include low vaccination coverage and a high occupational death rate.

National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded research at the McLaughlin Research Institute:
- Important discoveries in neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and Huntington’s disease.
- Research to improve recovery from hearing loss.

Growth in the bioscience industry in Bozeman:
- LipiCor Pharmaceuticals works with MSU to create drugs that fight inflammation.
- Microbeil partners with MSU to develop its effective compound for bladder removal, which is necessary to identify hospital equipment.

NIH grants lead to new discoveries at the University of Montana (UMT):
- Research to repair damaged blood vessels in collaboration with the international heart institute, another Montana research center.
- UMT is exploring novel treatments for Alzheimer’s disease.

Bioscience Centers in Montana:
- University of Montana Rocky Mountain National Labs, Missoula and Hamilton.
- Montana State University Bozeman.

Investing in Montana’s Future:
- Montana bioscience institutions directly employ more than 1,700 Montanans and support more than 5,100 jobs state-wide.
- The average annual salary for a Montana biotech employee is $49,500. (The average annual state-wide salary is $46,000.)
- Bioscience employees account for 4% of Montana’s manufacturing workforce.
- $54 million in NIH funding in 2013 supported approximately 3,000 in-state jobs.
- Montana benefits from the NIH Institutional Development Awards (IDeA) programs, which provide opportunities for the state to greatly expand in bioscience.
- Montana start-up bioscience companies have received millions in NIH Small Business Innovation Research funds to develop pharmaceuticals and health products for the market.

“Most Americans Think R&D is Important to State Economics”

“Why is funding from the National Institutes of Health important?”
- Supports university and independent research institute research.
- Trains new scientists.
- Creates cures, prevention, and treatments.
- Builds the biosciences industry.
- Keeps Montana competitive.

“Our current times require that not just scientists speak up, but that all of us who see the long-term value of science voice a call to continue making our national investment in research a priority. Research is the key to Montana’s future.” — Dr. Richard Bridges, University of Montana, Billings Gazette, April 2011
Research Matters to Montanans

Excerpt of a letter from National Development Council Chair Gerald Molen to Rep. Denny Rehberg:

GERALD R. MOLEN
357 Eagle Bend Drive Bigfork, Montana 59911-6210

JULY 20, 2011
Congressman Dennis Rehberg
2248 RHOB
Independence Ave & S. Capital St., SW
Washington, DC 20515

RE: McLaughlin Research Institute

Dear Denny,
Since you Chair the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, it is my considered opinion you are the person to whom I should direct my concerns for monies allocated to the Health and Human Services and the impact any reduction in money directly and currently will have on the future of scientific research and especially the programs that are currently working towards effectual discoveries.

You and I have discussed the important work being done at the McLaughlin research institute and how proud we are to have it doing it’s wonderful work in great falls. Please know there are many of us who understand the difficult decisions before you but we also know there are countless individuals, not only who live in Montana, but even around the world, who are in need of the results of the research ongoing and so close to fruition. Thank you in advance for any and all considerations in this matter. I am confident we share a common goal of seeing great things emanating from the work going on at MRI and further understand you realize the importance of the funding so desperately needed to complete the work now in progress.
NIH’s mission is to seek fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and the application of that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability.
NIH Soundbites

- NIH FY11 budget: $30.2 billion, or around $100 per person in the U.S.; NIH funding represents less than 1% of the total federal budget
- Less than six cents of every health dollar is spent on research; less than 1.4 cents goes to the NIH
- Research funded by NIH provides the groundwork for new product development in the private sector, which creates jobs and improves local economies
- NIH employees: nearly 20,000 (400 in Montana)
- NIH funding supports 487,900 jobs (over 1,000 in Montana)

Sources: Research!America, National Institutes of Health, United for Medical Research
The Budget for NIH

Budget Authority, FY 2005-2012

2010, 2011 does not include ARRA funding

Source: NIH Office of Budget, House Committee on Appropriations, Bureau of Labor Statistics
Success Rates of Research Proposals to NIH: FY01-FY12

Source: National Institutes of Health
U.S. Science is Still Doing Well, But Consider...

Research investment as a percentage of GDP in 2010:

Source: Battelle, R&D Magazine
The public supports strong research investment, but budget cuts threaten America’s global lead in biomedical innovation. Montana’s congressional delegation is well-positioned to help.
Montana’s Congressional Delegation: Leaders for Health

Sen. Max Baucus
- Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program (HIDTA)
- CHIP implementation and reauthorization
- Leadership in the Indian Health Care Improvement Act

Sen. Jon Tester
- Food Safety Amendment
- Indian Health Care Improvement Act
- Rural Veterans Health Care Improvement Act of 2009

Rep. Denny Rehberg
- Bipartisan CHIP expansion; co-founder of Congressional Baby Caucus
- Original cosponsor of Social Security and Medicare Lock-Box Act
- Leadership on expanded medical services for veterans
- Chair of Labor/Health and Human Services/Education Subcommittee; responsible for NIH appropriations
“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

Public Support Matters
Keeping a Finger on the Public Pulse

- Research!America has commissioned public opinion polls 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.
Some Spending Cuts & Strategic Investment Needed for Economy

Considering the current economic situation, which statement comes closest to your view:

- Spending cuts are not a priority now, as our economy recovers from the recession
- Some spending cuts are necessary but the U.S. must invest strategically to improve the health of the economy
- Across-the-board spending cuts are necessary to reduce the federal budget deficit and improve the health of the U.S. economy
- Don't know

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The U.S. is in danger of losing its global competitive edge in science, technology and innovation."

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
Most Agree That Basic Research is Necessary

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government.”

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
Accelerating Investment in Health Research is a High Priority

How much of a priority is it to accelerate our nation’s investment in research to improve health?

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company 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?

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

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
Likelihood to Vote for A Candidate

Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for public office if he or she supported increased funding for ...

Percent Saying "More Likely"

- Creating more jobs
- Increased access to health care
- Education
- Research to find cures for and to prevent disease
- Health services and health education programs
- Protecting natural resources and the environment
- Homeland security

Montana Public Health Research Survey, Harris Interactive for Research!America, February 2005
It’s an important time for our country
What You Can Do Now

• Those who value science-based policy making, evidence-based health care and an economy powered by innovation must step up and contact their congressional delegation.

• Advocacy WORKS. The right advocate in the right place at the right time can have a huge impact.

• A large number of advocates from all around the country cannot be ignored.
“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
Why Research is Important NOW More than Ever

• Cutting medical research is not a deficit reduction strategy; research improves our health and strengthens our economy.

• Cuts now are more harmful than ever as other countries like China and India rapidly increase investments in R&D.

• Our health and our economy depend on research investments. We cannot afford to fall behind.

“If you think research is expensive, try disease.” – Mary Lasker
Public Perceptions of Science and Scientists

Science’s impact on society is:

Mostly positive  84%
Mostly negative  6%
Other/don’t know 10%

Professions contributing “a lot to society’s well-being”:

Members of military  84%
Teachers  77%
Scientists  70%
Medical doctors  69%

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, July 2009
And Yet, Despite High Levels of Public Confidence, Scientists are Invisible in Our Society...
Most Americans Can’t Name a Living Scientist

Can you name a living scientist? (first volunteered responses)

- Yes: 34%
- No: 66%

- Stephen Hawking: 15%
- James Watson: 1%
- Jane Goodall: 1%
- Bill Nye: 1%
- Michio Kaku: 1%
- Neil Degrasse Tyson: 1%
- Other: 14%

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
‘A Nobel in the Family: My Brother, the Genius’

“I admire and love my brother [Paul Greengard], but he lives on a higher plane, and what he does is secret, unrevealable. To me, anyway …

“Every time he took a new job – whether at Albert Einstein College of Medicine or Yale – I’d ask him about it. Then he’d get into electro-physiological properties, and it was all over …

“Now, he has won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine, an honor he shares with two other scientists. In reporting it, the newspapers said their work on the way brain cells communicate might one day help cure diseases like Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s.

“I’m thrilled he won. Now I know what he does.”

– Chris Chase in a New York Times opinion piece on October 15, 2000
Scientists serve the public’s interest but don’t do a great job saying so. Accountability matters to the taxpayer. That’s why the most important four words a researcher can say and convey are ...
“I work for you.”
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- http://newvoicesforresearch.blogspot.com