Advocacy Leadership in Unsettled Times

Mary Woolley, President, Research!America
Most Americans Favor Expanding Funding for ESC Research

Do you favor or oppose expanding federal funding for research using embryonic stem cells?

- Strongly favor: 36%
- Somewhat favor: 17%
- Somewhat oppose: 11%
- Strongly oppose: 36%

Source: Your Congress - Your Health Survey, March 2011
Charlton Research Company for Research!America
“I continue to share the view of so many scientists that stem cell research holds great promise for alleviating the suffering of the 100 million American patients who are living with devastating disease for which there are no treatments or cures.”

The Honorable Mike Castle, Research!America Board member
Rasmussen: Ratings for Congress Remain at Record Lows (Aug. 30, 2011)
Tea Party Focus Group Findings: Attitudes Toward Research

- For the most part uninformed
  - But a little knowledge goes a long way: much more supportive if they know just a little bit
- Deeply cynical, inclined **not** to believe claims
- Few social conservatives
  - Little stem cell talk
- Most support if the expenditure is worthwhile or produces real, concrete results
- Some ‘no-no’s’:
  - The word ‘hope’
  - Claims that spending will lead to savings

Source: Focus groups conducted with self-described “Tea Party” sympathizers, Research!America, June 2011
Tea Party’s Top Issues

Most important issues:

- Jobs/economy: 54%
- Government spending: 48%
- Health care: 25%
- Taxes: 22%
- Defense: 14%
- Education: 13%
- Medical/health research: 6%
- Environment: 3%

Source: Survey conducted of self-described “Tea Party” sympathizers, Research!America, June 2011
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
- Research is the future

Sources: United for Medical Research; Battelle; Milken Institute
“I believe the economic destiny of America lies in science, technology, innovation and research.”

Research!America Chair and Former Congressman John Edward Porter
Most Not Well Informed on 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?

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

www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org

Become a Fan on Facebook
“Your country needs you. If all you do is vote, you’re definitely not doing enough. Get off your chair, do something outside your comfort zone and make a difference for science.”

The Honorable John Edward Porter, Research!America chair
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