Mary Woolley, President, Research!America

Sounding the Alarm for Research

Nov. 2, 2012

National MS Society Federal Activism Council
Arlington, VA
Alarming Time for Research

- Election politics
- Budget Control Act and sequestration
- Health care issues, especially cost issues
- Research advocates are not speaking out in force and in unanimity
The Big Picture: Research Funding on the Decline

- Biomedical and health R&D declined by more than $4 billion from FY10 to FY11
- Federal funding decreased 14% to $39.5 billion
- Sequestration could further reduce federal funding
- Biomedical and health R&D comprises less than 5% of total health costs

Source: 2011 U.S. Investment in Health Research, Research!America
Sequestration is Not Your Friend

- $1.1 trillion cut, split between defense and non-defense discretionary funding
- 8-10% + across-the-board cut to NIH and other agencies
- Takes effect January 2, 2013

Sequestration will come on top of already-enacted severe budget constraints to annual appropriations for 10 years.

- Includes sequester plus expiration of Bush tax cuts, payroll tax cuts and other items
- Drastically reduces federal deficits but will also inhibit economic growth

“Recovery could be endangered ... if no legislative action is taken.”

— Ben Bernanke

Sources: The Washington Post; ABC News
But Wait, It Gets Worse ...


- House FY13 appropriations bill, passed out of subcommittee July 18, cuts CDC 10%, eliminates AHRQ, flat-lines and micromanages NIH, skewers prevention, cost-effectiveness and economic research.

- Continuing resolution adopted to extend FY11 funding levels through March 27, 2013.
What’s at Stake?

Sequestration handcuffs our ability to restrain health care costs.
What’s at Stake?

If the sequester is enacted ...

- The NIH will fund 2300 fewer grants
  - 2300 fewer chances for a cure
  - Young scientists discouraged from research careers
  - Deteriorating research infrastructure
  - Industry starved for new discovery
  - Patients held hostage
- $12.2 million in NIH-funded MS research could be lost

Source: Letter from HHS to Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA); NIH categorical spending (FY11)
Budget Authority, FY 2005-2012

Sources: NIH Office of Budget, House Committee on Appropriations.
Also 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

a 10% payline isn't funding
it's a lottery
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
The lame-duck Congress will make hugely important decisions.

Gallup: Congress’ Approval Rating at 21% Ahead of Elections; One of Lowest Heading Into an Election (Oct. 24, 2012)
Presidential Candidates on Medical Research

“By maintaining and growing our support for key basic research we are strengthening our communities; that is why I have made a commitment to double our investment in scientific research over the next 10 years.”

— President Barack Obama

“Finding treatments and cures must be a top priority. Our government plays an important role in funding life sciences research, and I am strongly committed to ensuring that it continues to do so.”

— Gov. Mitt Romney

Source: National Science Board, Science and Engineering Indicators 2012
Key Congressional Decision Makers, 112th Congress 2011-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)
Senate Majority Whip
Working to Avert Fiscal Cliff: Senate Gang of Eight

Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)
Sen. Kent Conrad (D-ND)
Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA)
Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK)

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL)
Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)
Sen. Mike Crapo (R-ID)
Sen. Mike Johanns (R-NE)
What Do These and Other Decision Makers Have in Common?

- Agreement that getting control of the deficit is essential
- Agreement that we need to grow the economy
- Close to agreement that entitlement reform and tax reform are both needed
- The devil is in the details. Interests not heard from in force will be at high risk.
“If our country is to remain strong and prosperous and a land of rewarding jobs, we need to understand this basic investment principle in America’s future: no science, no growth.”

Neal Lane, PhD, former NSF director, in an op-ed in The New York Times (Oct. 28, 2012)
Research is an Economic Driver

- NIH funding in 2011 led to the creation of 432,094 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
Pew: Majority Disapproves Cutting Scientific Research Funding

Majorities Oppose Cuts in Spending for Education, Science, Defense

- Raise tax rate on income over $250,000
  - Disapprove: 29
  - Approve: 64
- Limit tax deductions for large corporations
  - Disapprove: 34
  - Approve: 58
- Reduce Medicare benefits for higher income seniors
  - Disapprove: 47
  - Approve: 49
- Limit deduction for mortgage interest
  - Disapprove: 44
  - Approve: 47
- Raise the tax on investment income
  - Disapprove: 49
  - Approve: 44
- Reduce funding for programs to help low income
  - Disapprove: 50
  - Approve: 43
- Gradually raise age for Social Security
  - Disapprove: 56
  - Approve: 41
- Reduce military defense spending
  - Disapprove: 56
  - Approve: 40
- Reduce funding for scientific research
  - Disapprove: 54
  - Approve: 38
- Raise contributions to Medicare for health care
  - Disapprove: 57
  - Approve: 35
- Reduce federal funding for college student loans
  - Disapprove: 61
  - Approve: 34
- Reduce federal funding for education
  - Disapprove: 75
  - Approve: 22

“...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.”

- 29% Strongly agree
- 48% Somewhat agree
- 6% Somewhat disagree
- 4% Strongly disagree
- 13% Not sure

Source: National Public Opinion Poll, October 2011, JZ Analytics for Research!America
Over Half Doubt U.S. Leadership in Science and Technology in 2020

In your view, which of the following will be considered the number one world leader in science and technology in the year 2020?

- United States: 41%
- China: 25%
- India: 5%
- European Union: 5%
- Brazil: 5%
- Not sure: 23%

Source: A Research!America poll of likely voters conducted in partnership with JZ Analytics, with support from United for Medical Research, in September 2012.
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
What Can You Do?

To save research and overcome disabling and costly diseases like MS, more advocates must speak out.

Visit saveresearch.org and take part in the Week of Advocacy.

But when the week ends, your advocacy shouldn’t!
Save Research Partners Include the National MS Society

WARNING: Washington politics just might kill you

Millions of Americans are dying to know what Congress will do

Medical research is at risk in our nation. So too is prevention research, as well as the research needed to combat disease outbreaks, weed out costly inefficiencies and deadly errors from our health care system. The “fiscal cliff,” which includes across-the-board cuts known as “sequestration,” could result in massive cuts to our federal health agencies and policy changes that would place private-sector R&D in jeopardy.

If Congress makes across-the-board cuts and takes other actions that compromise our nation’s health and science agencies (National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and National Science Foundation).
Other Save Research Partners to Date Include:

- AcademyHealth
- Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research
- Alliance for a Stronger FDA
- Alzheimer’s Association
- American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
- American Heart Association
- American Thoracic Society
- Ann and Robert H. Lurie Foundation
- Association of Academic Health Centers
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Battelle
- Biotechnology Industry Organization
- Campaign for Public Health Foundation
- Danaher
- FasterCures
- FASEB
- Food Allergy Initiative
- Foundation Fighting Blindness
- Friends of AHRQ
- Friends of Cancer Research
- Friends of NINR
- Geoffrey Beene Foundation
- Life Technologies
- Lupus Foundation of America
- March of Dimes
- Milken Institute
- National MS Society
- National Organization for Rare Diseases
- Non-Defense Discretionary (NDD) Coalition
- One Mind for Research
- Parkinson’s Action Network
- Raymond and Beverly Sackler Fund for The Arts and Sciences
- Sanofi
- Society for Neuroscience
- The Association of Independent Research Institutes (AIRI)
- United for Medical Research
- USAgainstAlzheimer’s
“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
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