

Letter of Agreement Among Research! America, Research Australia, Research Canada and Research Sweden

Background

Research!America, Research Australia, Research Canada and Research!Sweden are national health research advocacy organizations whose multi-stakeholder alliances are dedicated to making health research a high national priority in our respective countries. We share a common vision that health research is a shared benefit, a shared responsibility and an investment in each of our countries' futures.

The four alliances collectively recognize that health research improves the health and prosperity of our nations' citizens and builds better health systems in our respective countries. We carry out our related missions through advocacy programs that engage broad stakeholder groups including politicians, government officials, academics, clinicians, and citizens. We also work closely with representatives from foundations, charities and the private sector.

Over the past decade, Research!America, Research Australia and Research Canada have been members of each other's organizations and have met informally on several occasions, presented and been guests at each other's annual meetings and conferences. The purpose of these meetings has been to share information, strategies and best practices and to support one another in facing our respective challenges and in seizing opportunities that advance health research in our respective countries.

Recently, Research!Sweden was formed and joined the alliance of Research (Country) health research advocacy organizations, bringing its unique programs, approaches and strategies to this informal international table.

Through this Letter of Agreement, we wish to capitalize on the partnership our four organizations have forged and recognize the value derived from enhanced international collaboration, the benefits of which fall to each of our respective memberships and compliment the existing value of a membership in one of our organizations. Sharing our strategies and approaches, networks and expertise in a more systematic way can only strengthen each of our health research advocacy efforts.

In the spirit of collaboration and international cooperation, we, the undersigned representatives of Research!America, Research Australia, Research Canada and Research!Sweden, would like to capitalize on the partnership our four organizations have formed and undertake an unprecedented agreement among our four organizations to better advance our respective missions and mandates.

Goals

Our goals in establishing this agreement are to:

- Foster greater collaboration among the four organizations in an effort to leverage expertise, advancements and approaches in health research advocacy

- Facilitate the sharing of best practices in health research advocacy, governance and operational policies and procedures
- Enhance communications among the four organizations in an effort to provide greater opportunities to learn from and support each other in our respective endeavors
- Share health research advocacy contacts where appropriate, e.g. health research champions, eminent and excellent health researchers and health innovators to present at national or international conferences or lend their expertise to national or international forums in an effort to inform, inspire and expand each jurisdiction's understanding of health research, health innovation and health research advocacy globally
- Explore opportunities to collaborate internationally on health research advocacy ventures that strengthen our respective national health research advocacy efforts

Description of Collaborative Activities

- The Presidents and Chief Executive Officers from Research!America, Research Australia, Research Canada and Research!Sweden will meet either via teleconference or in person on an annual basis with the aim of sharing best practices in health research advocacy, governance and operational policies and procedures. This annual gathering will also provide an opportunity to explore possible international collaborations that strengthen each organization's national health research advocacy efforts
- Each organization will make an effort to keep the others informed of their activities on a regular basis through mutually acceptable communication vehicles, e.g. e-mail, social media channels, electronic or print materials
- Each organization will make an effort to suggest and recommend speakers, presenters and experts from their respective countries, if requested for others' events and activities

Timeframe

The timeframe for this agreement will be two years from March 1, 2013 to February 28, 2015 after which our four alliances will evaluate whether continuing such an agreement is beneficial to our respective missions and mandates.

Signed this 1st day of March, 2013.



Ms. Mary Woolley, President and CEO,
Research!America



Ms. Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbety, President
and CEO, Research Canada



Ms. Elizabeth Foley, Managing Director and
CEO, Research Australia



Dr. Anna Nilsson Vindefjord, Secretary
General, Research!Sweden