Panel Examines the Future for Research at Post-Election Event

Nine days after the 2012 general election, Research!America and its partners—the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network—hosted a post-election briefing to discuss the future of research and innovation in the 113th Congress and in President Barack Obama’s second term.

The event, held at the AAAS building in downtown Washington, DC, featured a panel discussion with National Journal Daily editor Matthew Cooper; Research!America Board member The Honorable Kweisi Mfume; Research!America’s chair, The Honorable John Edward Porter; and Research!America’s chair, The Honorable John Edward Porter. Continued on page 5

Uncertainties Abound in Fiscal Cliff, Omnibus Negotiations

Congress has until the end of the year to address the “fiscal cliff,” a conflagration of tax and budget landmines including sequestration, expiration of Bush-era and other tax cuts, and addressing an unjustifiable cut in Medicare physician payments. Sequestration, scheduled to take effect in January 2013, would slice billions out of the federal research budget, including from health and science agencies.

At the time of this writing, congressional leaders and President Barack Obama have met to discuss plans to avert the fiscal cliff, and the president and congressional leadership have both put forth a blueprint intended to jumpstart negotiations.

The appropriators, meanwhile, are reportedly preparing

Continued on page 4

Over Half Doubt U.S. Leadership in Science and Technology in 2020

- United States 41%
- China 25%
- India 5%
- European Union 5%
- Brazil 1%
- 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.

AMERICA SPEAKS

In your view, which of the following will be considered the number one world leader in science and technology in the year 2020?
Baxter International traces its roots to 1931, when it became the first manufacturer of commercially prepared intravenous solutions. Only four years later, Baxter began research and development activities. More than 80 years later, Baxter is noted for its breakthroughs in kidney dialysis, hemophilia, vaccines and a host of other areas. In 2011, its worldwide sales neared $14 billion, and it boasted an R&D budget of $946 million.

Francis Collins, MD, PhD, director of the National Institutes of Health, has started a new blog highlighting new discoveries in biology and medicine: http://1.usa.gov/TvifLF

Saveresearch.org has a resources section with links to reports and background materials from our partners about sequestration: http://bit.ly/XrRXBc

The academic focus of Norbert Riedel, PhD, was biochemistry. But as Baxter’s corporate vice president and chief science and innovation officer, the demands of his job spread far beyond that one subject. The company’s portfolio is vast, incorporating pharmaceuticals, medical devices and biotechnology. Such diversity is a defining characteristic, Baxter’s website notes—and it gives Riedel much to think about each day.

“That is part of the very reason why I like this job very much,” Riedel said. On a day-to-day basis, he added, he makes use of both the specialized staff that reports to him and nearby academic connections, which helps him understand technological advances in academia. Beyond that, he added, a general sense of the science and technology world, as well as a curious mind, are also helpful.

Riedel is particularly excited about two areas: a late-stage clinical trial for a promising Alzheimer’s disease therapy, as well as a therapy in which patients’ own stem cells are injected into their heart muscle as a way of treating heart disease. Another area of potential is a cancer therapy that came from Baxter’s early-stage R&D group.

Baxter’s membership with Research!America, Riedel said, is not only a way to support American competitiveness but also a way to keep the spotlight on challenges whose solutions lie in research.

“In my view, the key global challenges that we have as a global community all depend on scientific discovery and technology to find effective solutions and to find effective ways of tackling these challenges,” he said. “And I believe the United States has been a leader in this for decades and must remain a leader. And therefore Research!America emphasizes the need for adequate funding for adequate education in science and all the things that literally have made this nation a great nation but also are areas in which we are beginning to lose our competitive edge.”

To learn more, visit www.baxter.com.

Research!America stands on a reputation of innovative advocacy that generates results serving our mission and the interests of our members:

- Research!America has conducted public opinion polling since 1992, including numerous national surveys and polling in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Our polling asks Americans for their thoughts on research, public health, global health and other topics concerning research to improve health.
- Research!America’s poll data summary, America Speaks, summarizes the year in public opinion as noted by Research!America polling. The annual publication, expected in January, showcases trends and interesting findings concerning research to improve health.
- Research!America leadership is frequently quoted by local, national and trade media. The stories that result help demonstrate the importance of research to improve health and spread the message to audiences across the country.
Week of Advocacy
Research!America’s Week of Advocacy to Save Research campaign urging Congress to stop potential across-the-board cuts to biomedical and health research yielded significant media coverage. Letters to the editor from Research!America’s chair, The Honorable John E. Porter, and American Association for the Advancement of Science CEO and Research!America Board member Alan Leshner, PhD, in The New York Times called on the lame-duck Congress to prioritize research and scientists to become stronger advocates. In an editorial published in Science, Leshner and Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley urged members of the research community to “Speak Up for Science.”

Woolley was quoted in multiple articles highlighting the campaign, including BioCentury This Week, National Journal, Charlotte (NC) Business Journal and The Lancet. Other media outlets that covered the campaign include Daily Kos, Kaiser Health News, The Hill and Politico Pro.

Research!America’s sign-on letter to congressional leaders was featured in an Inside Health Policy article. The Week of Advocacy “Hill Day” was the focus of a National Journal article with quotes from Marty Sargesse and Larry Swanson, PhD, of the Society for Neuroscience, a Research!America member.

An Associated Press article mentioned Research!America as one of several major groups advocating in Washington, DC, “to shape the government’s response to the fiscal cliff.” The Save Research campaign ad was highlighted as an attention-getter. And a CNN.com article describing how “falling off the fiscal cliff could hurt your health” quoted Eleanor “Ellie” Dehoney, Research!America’s vice president for programs and policy, who talked about the Save Research campaign and Hill meetings.

Post-Election Analysis
Mary Woolley discussed post-election implications for science and upcoming challenges during a panel discussion on BioCentury This Week that aired November 11 and in a New Scientist article. Eleanor “Ellie” Dehoney was interviewed in LiveScience about the deficit and what scientists should expect in the next four years. “Both sides claim they want to jettison sequestration”—the mandatory cuts—“the question is what replaces it,” she said. The article also appeared on MSNBC.com.

Empty Beds Saves Lives
Research!America Board member Herbert Pardes, MD, was a guest columnist in the New York Daily News, explaining why empty hospital beds shouldn’t be viewed as a “luxury for deficit hawks.” He writes, “The overall lesson of Superstorm Sandy is that our complex and compassionate health care system works during an emergency. But it won’t work if policy makers confuse emergency capacity with waste.”

Forecast on Appropriations
Research!America Chair John E. Porter weighed in on a CQ Roll Call article focusing on the next Labor-HHS Chairman. One of the biggest challenges appropriators have, Porter said, is to push against calls to cut domestic spending across the board by the same amount.
**Fiscal Cliff**  
*Continued from page 1*

Funding levels have been approved by the House but have not been voted on by the Senate. Note: At the time of this writing, funding levels have not gone to a floor vote for NIH, CDC, FDA and AHRQ. NSF come remains a short-term fix that would avert the cliff and provide lawmakers time to develop a comprehensive plan for deficit reduction in 2013. Under that scenario, the omnibus would fall away and disaster relief would be encompassed in the short-term fix.

The bottom line is that funding for research remains at risk. Research!America and our partners in the community are fighting to make sure lawmakers understand just what is at stake, but we need every research advocate to stand up and make the case to their representatives before it’s too late.

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**CPh Foundation Update**

The winners of the 2012 Unsung Heroes of Public Health Awards were lauded at a ceremony on Capitol Hill in early December. Among those saluting the winners were one of the honorary co-chairs of the event (Rep. Jim McGovern [D-MA]); leadership from The CPh Foundation (Board Chair Evan Jones, Board member Carmine Novembre and Executive Director Karl Moeller); and a representative from the office of Rep. Louise Slaughter (D-NY).

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### 2013 Federal Research Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>FY13 President’s Request</th>
<th>FY13 House</th>
<th>FY13 Senate</th>
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<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>$30.7 billion</td>
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<td>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**</td>
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<td>$0</td>
<td>$0.36 billion</td>
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</table>

* CDC core budget. The House bill terminated funding for the Prevention and Public Health Fund.  
** Excludes funding from transfers.  

Note: At the time of this writing, funding levels have not gone to a floor vote for NIH, CDC, FDA and AHRQ. NSF funding levels have been approved by the House but have not been voted on by the Senate.
Garfield Award Presented to Miller, Tucker
Amalia R. Miller, PhD, associate professor at the University of Virginia and an economist with RAND Corporation, and Catherine E. Tucker, PhD, associate professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received the 2012 Garfield Economic Impact Award at a ceremony in Washington, DC, on November 15.

Their study, “Can Health Care Information Technology Save Babies?”, was published in Journal of Political Economy and found that the use of electronic medical records (EMRs) reduces neonatal mortality as compared with traditional hard-copy records. Moreover, the study found that the cost of EMRs for this purpose is minimal when compared with the societal benefits.

The award is supported by a grant from Merck & Co., Inc. Founding support for the Garfield Award was provided by the Eugene Garfield Foundation.

Post-Election Event
Continued from page 1

Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley served as moderator.

As with so much else in Washington, little is discernible without a clear picture on what will happen with the “fiscal cliff,” the series of tax increases and spending cuts that are currently scheduled to take effect in January. During the post-election briefing, all three panelists acknowledged that controlling the debt and deficit is the immediate, overriding concern for Congress.

But there were a few predictions: Mfume said he expected the R&D tax credit to pass in the coming Congress. And Cooper said he believed that research and technology holds strong support within the administration, calling it an “itch they want to scratch.”

Prior to the panel discussion, Woolley reviewed some of the results of Research!America’s Your Candidates—Your Health initiative. She highlighted quotes and responses by Obama and several returning Members of Congress, including Sen.-elect Tammy Baldwin (D-WI); Rep. Dan Benishek, MD (R-MI); Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD); Rep.-elect Joseph P. Kennedy III (D-MA); Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA); and Rep. Don Young (R-AK).

Woolley also highlighted areas of agreement and disagreement between the Republicans and Democrats. Among the areas of agreement were that research is part of the solution to rising health care costs; that maintaining U.S. competitiveness and supporting the National Institutes of Health should be higher priorities; that the government should work to increase the number of students studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and that the R&D tax credit should become permanent.

Areas of disagreement included whether the Food and Drug Administration is adequately funded; whether the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality should be higher priorities; and if federal funding should be expanded for embryonic stem cell research.

Australia Aims to Improve Research Grant System
The Australian government will review recommendations on how government-funded grants are applied for and dispersed. Two recent papers—one by a government entity, the Australian Research Committee (ARCom) and the other by an independent group, whose paper is called the McKeon Review—have advised the government to shift grants to a longer duration, which would increase the efficiency of the grant allocation processes.

The ARCom review has also called for grants to be directed to individuals and teams and for an examination into how much time researchers use to fill out grant applications.

Two arms of the government, the Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council, will now examine the recommendations. ARCom, meanwhile, will investigate other areas such as research capacity, key issues facing government-supported research and international collaboration during the next 12 months.
A study by Booz & Company found that eight of the top 20 worldwide spenders on R&D are biopharmaceutical companies: AstraZeneca, GlaxoSmithKline, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, and Sanofi.

Four American biomedical researchers have received the Sanofi-Institut Pasteur 2012 Awards: James J. Collins, PhD, of Boston University; John Mekalanos, PhD, of Harvard Medical School; Peter Palese, PhD, of Mount Sinai School of Medicine; and Jeffrey Ravetch, MD, PhD, of Rockefeller University.

The National Institutes of Health unveiled a new logo:

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Former MA Representative, NIH Advocate Joe Early Dies

Former Rep. Joe Early (D-MA), who served in Congress from 1975 to 1993 and was a strong advocate for the National Institutes of Health, died November 9. He was 79.

“We are deeply saddened by the passing of Joseph Early and extend our condolences to his family and colleagues deeply affected by his loss,” said Research!America Chair John Edward Porter, who served on the House Appropriations Committee with Early. “Early was an exceptional and dedicated public servant, helping make research a priority not only for his community, but for the nation.”

As a state legislator, he secured funding for the University of Massachusetts Medical School and pushed for it to be located in his hometown of Worcester, according to the Worcester Telegram & Gazette. His support for medical research continued in Congress, where he was a fierce proponent for the NIH.

“From championing economic development to his tireless advocacy for medical research, Joe Early was a man who truly made a difference,” Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA), who now holds Early’s seat, said in a statement.

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Lasker Awards Call for Nominations

The Lasker Foundation has announced that nominations for the 2013 Lasker Awards are being accepted through February 1, 2013. There are three categories of awards being given out in 2013: Basic Medical Research, Clinical Medical Research and Public Service.

Nominations will be accepted in both hard copy and electronically. To learn more, download a nomination packet or submit an online nomination, visit www.lasker-foundation.org/nominate.htm.

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FDA Partnership Expected to Aid Development of Medical Device Regulatory Science

The Food and Drug Administration announced that it is taking part in a new public-private partnership designed to promote medical device regulatory science with the goal of ultimately speeding the development and review of new medical devices.

The partnership is known as the Medical Device Innovation Consortium and is an independent, nonprofit corporation that was created by LifeScience Alley, a trade organization.

MDIC will fund projects and seek input from industry, government, nonprofits and other stakeholders to help simplify the process of designing and approving medical device innovations.

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Voters are Split on FDA Pace to Approve Treatments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) should move more quickly in order to get new treatments to patients, even if it means more risks</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The FDA should act more slowly in order to reduce risk, even if it means patients may wait longer for treatments</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither</td>
<td>24%</td>
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Clinical Research Forum Seeks Nominations for 2013 Achievement Awards

The Clinical Research Forum, a Research!America member, has announced its call for nominations for the 2013 Top 10 Clinical Research Achievement Awards. The deadline for submitting a nomination is January 1, 2013.

To be eligible, research must have been conducted at a U.S. institution during 2012. The researchers must also agree to attend the Clinical Research Forum’s Annual Meeting, which is April 18-19, 2013, in Washington, DC, and allow their research to be included in a publication targeted to Congress.

To learn more about the awards, the selection criteria and nomination requirements, visit http://bit.ly/V9ioz7K.

Research!America Releases Fact Sheet on NTDs

Despite their name, neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) have appeared across the U.S. And Research!America’s latest fact sheet (see this month’s insert) shows just how prevalent they are: NTDs have been documented across the southern tier of the country, from California east to South Carolina and north to Virginia. Fortunately, research to combat NTDs is taking place across nearly as large a swath of the country.

The fact sheet shows the prevalence of NTDs, as well as some good news: Progress is being made. The fact sheet explains current successes and details how government, academia and public-private partnerships all work to ease the burden of NTDs.

Research!America Extends Special Thanks to Our Principal Partners


2013 National Health Research Forum Howard Hughes Medical Institute “We Need Cures, Not Cuts” Campaign Danaher Corporation Lupus Foundation of America

Post-election Outlook for Medical Innovation American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Sequestration Poll Association of American Universities United for Medical Research

Garfield Economic Impact Award Merck & Co., Inc.

Visit www.researchamerica.org/partnership_opportunities for ways to support Research!America.

Important to Research and Eliminate Health Disparities

Studies show that certain health problems such as diabetes, heart disease and infant mortality happen more often among minorities or citizens with lower incomes. How important do you feel it is to conduct medical and health research to understand and eliminate these differences?

Source: A Research!America Poll of Likely Voters Conducted in Partnership with J2 Analytics in August 2012. (Totals Do Not Add To 100% Due to Rounding.)
Coming UP


Advocacy & Action

Tell Congress: We Need Cures, Not Cuts

Congress is considering major changes in federal policy in order to reduce the deficit, including “sequestration,” which means arbitrary, across-the-board budget cuts to defense and non-defense spending. Sequestration or similar sweeping cuts to “discretionary” federal funding would dramatically reduce funding for medical research and critical public health functions.

We can’t let that happen. Deficit reduction is important, but there are ways to achieve it that do not compromise American lives and American progress. Arbitrary budget cuts that abandon medical research are wrong. Join dozens of organizations and tell Congress: WE NEED CURES, NOT CUTS!

Visit US ON THE WEB

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Follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/researchamerica
Become a fan on Facebook: www.researchamerica.org/facebook
Watch our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/researchamerica
Visit our blog: www.researchamerica.org/blog
NTDs in the United States

NTDs, or neglected tropical diseases, affect over 1.4 billion individuals worldwide and are emerging in the U.S., yet they receive little attention. Funding for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment falls far short of need. These diseases are often disabling or fatal if left untreated.

NTDs Here at Home

- An estimated 300,000 people are infected with Chagas disease in the U.S. The first documented case of mother-to-child transmission of Chagas disease in the U.S. was reported in Virginia in 2012. Source: CDC

- It is estimated that 10% of all ER seizure patients in Los Angeles, California have cysticercosis. Source: PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, 2007

- Louisiana has seen its first documented case of Chagas disease, has the second highest number of West Nile fatalities, and had widespread toxocoriasis in the 1980s (comprehensive surveying has since stopped). Source: PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, 2008

- In Texas, there have been 1,355 reported West Nile cases and 52 fatalities in 2012 alone. Source: CDC West Nile

- CDC studies indicated that 5% of Key West, Florida residents were infected with dengue in 2009. Evidence of past dengue infection was detected in 40% of Brownsville, Texas residents. Source: CDC CDC Dengue Update

What are NTDs?

- Chagas disease is spread through bloodsucking insects (kissing bugs) and can cause heart failure.
- Cysticercosis is a parasitic infection that leads to seizures and epilepsy.
- Dengue fever is a virus spread by mosquitoes that causes extremely high fever.
- Leishmaniasis can cause disfiguring skin sores and in severe cases, internal organ damage.
- Schistosomiasis is a parasitic infection that can cause abdominal pain and bladder damage.
- Trachoma is a bacterial eye infection that can lead to painful and irreversible blindness.
- Toxocariasis is a parasitic infection that mainly affects children and can cause visual impairment.
- West Nile virus is spread through mosquitoes and can lead to brain damage and kidney failure.

"As researchers and vaccine developers, we have the...ability to eliminate the most common NTDs... But we cannot make progress without political will and support for science and research."

James W. Kazura, MD President, American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

SUCCESS STORY IN THE MAKING

In Texas, researchers at the National School of Tropical Medicine at the Baylor College of Medicine have identified links between West Nile virus and kidney disease. In a recent study, they found that 40% of people with the virus had kidney disease. With the deadliest year yet for West Nile in the U.S. (>3,500 cases), these kinds of studies are essential to better understand and treat this NTD.

Together with the Sabin Vaccine Institute, the school is also conducting groundbreaking research to develop new vaccines, drugs and diagnostics for other NTDs right here in the U.S.

Sources: PLOS ONE 2012, National School of Tropical Medicine
Critical Players in NTD Research

The importance of NTD research was underscored in January 2012, when the World Health Organization (WHO), pharmaceutical companies, national governments (including the U.S.) and global health organizations came together in London and pledged to eliminate or control ten NTDs by 2020.

Here in the United States, government agencies, academia and public-private partnerships play a key role in advancing NTD research.

US Government

- In 2012, NIH funded eight Tropical Medicine Research Centers, allowing each center to pursue targeted NTD research and implement new prevention and treatment strategies. Source: NIH; Tropical Medicine Research Centers.

- The CDC started the global campaign to eradicate Guinea Worm Disease in 1980, which has now been confined to less than 2,000 cases worldwide. Source: CDC Guinea Worm Disease

- In 2012, navy medical researchers began conducting the first human clinical trials for a dengue vaccine developed with funds from the DoD. Source: Defense.gov News

- Trachoma results in an estimated $2.9 billion in lost productivity each year. USAID and NIH played a key role in reducing trachoma cases from 149 million in 1997 to 60 million in 2008. Source: Global Network, USAID

Public-Private Partnerships

- Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) has developed affordable tablets to treat Chagas in children, and a cost-effective treatment for leishmaniasis that reduces treatment time by 12 days. Source: DNDi

- OneWorld Health, a drug-development affiliate of PATH, has developed a cost-effective antibiotic treatment for visceral leishmaniasis already in use in South-East Asia. Source: One World Health

- The Infectious Disease Research Institute (IDRI), developed the first vaccine candidate for leishmaniasis as well as a technology used in the U.S. to screen blood donations for Chagas disease. Source: IDRI

- FHI 360 developed END, a program aimed at eliminating trachoma, schistosomiasis and other NTDs. FHI 360 serves more than 60 countries and all U.S. states and territories. Source: FHI 360

Academia

- Researchers at Loyola University New Orleans identified the first locally-acquired case of Chagas disease in Louisiana and are continuing to monitor the disease. Source: Emerging Infectious Diseases, 2007

- The Center for Emerging and Neglected Diseases at the University of California, Berkeley, is working to develop new treatments and diagnostics for diseases such as schistosomiasis, Chagas, leishmaniasis and dengue. Source: Center for Emerging and Neglected Diseases

- Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin completed a long-term study on the threat of Chagas disease in Texas and developed key policy recommendations. Source: University of Texas, Austin

- An NIH-funded lab at the University of Georgia is actively researching potential vaccine candidates for Chagas disease. UGA researchers also created and lead the Chagas Disease Foundation in Watkinsville, GA. Source: University of Georgia

The Way Forward

NTDs are on the rise in the United States. We need:

- **Greater recognition** by policymakers that U.S. populations suffer from these neglected diseases

- **Improved surveillance** and documentation of the magnitude of NTDs, including their health and economic impact

- **Increased investment** in research to better understand and combat the diseases