American Speaks, Volume 13 Released

America Speaks, Volume 13, a compilation of public opinion polls commissioned by Research!America, was released in January. This year’s edition also features an overview of 20 years’ worth of trends in areas such as global competitiveness, taxes and spending, public support for research, and health issues of greatest concern.

Sequestration Delayed; More Fiscal Fights To Come

As the clock ticked down, Congress and the White House struck a deal that would avert the fiscal cliff, including an agreement to delay sequestration by two months. Barring any decision to ignore, delay or eliminate sequestration, 10 years of across-the-board budget cuts would begin March 1. The National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Food and Drug Administration, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention budgets would collectively be cut by an estimated $2.27 billion in FY13 alone.

In addition to the possibility of sequestration, the continuing resolution (CR), which is currently funding the government at FY12 levels, will expire on March 27. Finally, the debt ceiling will likely be reached in mid-May; if the notion resurfaces that any increases in the debt limit must be matched by budget cuts, this date becomes another flashpoint.

Some of the findings in this year’s edition:

- More than half (54%) said they would be willing to pay $1 more in taxes if they were certain the money would go to fund additional medical research.
- Nearly 60% said the U.S. would not be the world leader in science and technology by 2020.
- 70% want increased government support to encourage young Americans to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics.
- Only 1 in 5 (19%) correctly identified that medical research is conducted in every state in the U.S.

Wide Majority Believes Research is Key to Reducing Health Care Costs

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Research!America’s Advocacy Awards celebrate the efforts of those who have made a difference in advocating for or increasing awareness of the role of health and medical research.

Research!America’s poll data summary, America Speaks, summarizes the year in public opinion as reflected in Research!America polling. The annual publication showcases useful trends and findings concerning biomedical and health research.
Appropriations Leadership Changes
Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley provided insights for a *Science* magazine article about Rep. Jack Kingston (R-GA), the new House Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee chair. “We are looking forward to working with him,” Woolley said. Her comments were also included in a similar article that ran in *The Scientist*.

Fiscal Cliff Deal Coverage
A *Nature* magazine article about the implications of the new fiscal cliff deal for federal health agencies included comments from Ellie Dehoney, Research!America’s VP of policy and programs. “The bill isn’t ideal, but it does give advocates more time to convince policy makers that cutting the U.S. investment in R&D is counterproductive,” Dehoney said. The article also appeared in *Scientific American*. Dehoney was also quoted in an *FDA Week* article about the forecast of federal funding support for the Food and Drug Administration.

Research!America’s VP of communications, Suzanne Ffolkes, was quoted in *Politico* about reactions to the fiscal cliff deal, which delayed across-the-board spending cuts to March. “Until sequestration is resolved, we cannot let down our guard and hope for the best,” Ffolkes said.

America Speaks Gains Media Traction
Research!America’s *America Speaks*, Volume 13, a compilation of recent national public opinion polls about health and biomedical research released in January, was the focus of articles in *News-Medical* and *Healthcare Informatics*.

Scientific Funding: A Moral Imperative
Research!America Board member Victor J. Dzau, MD, penned a blog post for *The Huffington Post*, explaining why scientific funding is not “discretionary” funding, but rather an essential investment to global competitiveness and “the future of our country.” Steven Salzberg, MD, of Johns Hopkins Medical School, also expressed concerns that “biomedical research in the U.S. is crumbling” because of Congress’ inability to pass a budget in an op-ed published in *Forbes*. In a *Washington Post* op-ed, three Washington, D.C., institutional members of Research!America (Georgetown University Medical Center, George Washington University’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences and Howard University’s School of Medicine) said cuts to medical research could “imperil efforts” at universities to improve health.

Save Research Ad Attracts Attention
Research!America’s Save Research ad continues to attract media attention. NewsFix, a blog from Northern California NPR affiliate KQED-FM, mentioned the ad in a recent article about messages posted in Metro stations around the Washington, D.C., area aimed at policy makers. “This alliance is obviously worried that Congress will end up slashing research dollars as part of an effort to reduce the deficit,” reporter Scott Shafer wrote.
Sequestration Delayed; More Fiscal Fights To Come
Continued from page 1

While Research!America continues our ongoing efforts to protect research funding, we are also preparing to launch the second phase of our heightened advocacy campaign. As with phase one, the campaign coordinates efforts of the research advocacy community as it aims to raise awareness of what will be lost in the wake of severe funding cuts. Phase two will focus on activating grassroots advocates across the country to speak up on behalf of research. But you don’t have to wait.

Take action right away. Send an email, call, tweet or meet with your representatives. Schedule an in-district meeting with your representatives. Invite them to tour your home institution or research lab in order to learn about the importance of federally funded research and its local impact. Check out our website for advocacy tools and contact information. Get started today by emailing Max Bronstein at mbronstein@researchamerica.org.

CPH Foundation Update

University, Cassidy co-founded a clinic in Baton Rouge that provided dental care and health care to the working uninsured; he also founded a public-private partnership that vaccinated 36,000 children against Hepatitis B at no cost to the children or their schools. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Cassidy led a group of volunteers that converted an abandoned store into an emergency health care facility that provided basic care to evacuees.

2013 FEDERAL RESEARCH BUDGET

<table>
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<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>$30.72 billion</td>
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<td>$5.07 billion</td>
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<td>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**</td>
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<td>$0.36 billion</td>
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* 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.
Supreme Court Declines to Hear Stem Cell Case

The U.S. Supreme Court announced that it would not hear a case that challenged the legality of federally funded human embryonic stem cell research (hESC).

The case, Sherley v. Sebelius, was brought by two researchers of adult stem cells, James Sherley, MD, PhD, and Theresa Deisher, PhD, in 2009. They argued that guidelines enabling government funding of hESC were in violation of the 1996 Dickey-Wicker Amendment. The amendment forbade the Department of Health and Human Services from using appropriated funds to either create embryos for research purposes or conduct research in which embryos are destroyed.

“The U.S. Supreme Court’s dismissal of Sherley v. Sebelius, a case intended to block federal funding for scientists conducting embryonic stem cell research, is a victory for patients and the research community,” said Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley in a statement.

Flu Season Hits Early

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that, at its heretofore peak in the final week of 2012, seasonal influenza was at epidemic levels: 28 states reported at the highest level of influenza-like illness as charted by the CDC’s Influenza Division. Following the first week of January, however, that number had dropped by more than half. The CDC has estimated that influenza and pneumonia cost the U.S. $40.2 billion per year.

Without research and prevention efforts, the financial and human costs would be far higher.

The current flu vaccine targets 91% of the circulating viruses, leading to 62% fewer influenza-associated medical visits, according to the CDC. Additionally, recent research has found that, in patients taking statins or lipid-control drugs, mortality was reduced by 41% in patients hospitalized with the flu.

In terms of financial benefits, the CDC reported that manufacturers were planning a vaccine to protect against four types of the flu virus, rather than the current three. That additional protection would save the U.S. $3.1 billion over the course of 10 flu seasons. And early prevention saves money too: Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh found that employees vaccinated in November instead of December could save their companies between $63 and $95. For a 150-person firm, that could mean savings of more than $14,000.

Research!America Releases Updated Fact Sheet on Cancer

Research!America’s updated cancer fact sheet shows the economic burden of the disease and what research has done—and will do—to save lives and money. More than a million Americans were expected to develop cancer last year, with a lifetime probability of 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women affected.

Progress has been made in pediatrics, where mortality rates for childhood cancer have been reduced significantly due to research that produced early detection techniques and new treatments.

Look for the fact sheet inserted into electronic versions of this newsletter, or download the fact sheet here: http://bit.ly/W0BT2J

America Speaks Continued from page 1

- More than 60% identified the cost of health care as the single most important health issue facing the nation.

“Americans will be looking closely at the actions of the new Congress to see whether lawmakers support policies that will accelerate research and scientific discovery,” said Research!America Chair John Edward Porter. “We’re on the brink of finding new treatments and cures for many deadly and debilitating illnesses. Congress must act to ensure that funding for research is sufficient to address current and emerging health threats.”

Research!America Board member Evan Jones was nominated to join Foundation Medicine’s Board of Directors.

The Food and Drug Administration approved 39 new drugs in 2012, the most in 16 years.

The FDA has released new rules that aim to prevent foodborne illness and to establish science-based standards for the safe growing, harvesting, packing and holding of produce in order to minimize microbial contamination.

**Research!America Extends Special Thanks to Our Principal Partners**

**Save Research Campaign**
FasterCures, The Center for Accelerating Medical Solutions
Visit www.researchamerica.org/partnership_opportunities for ways to support Research!America.

**Did You Know**

Collins: Sequestration Represents “Profound and Devastating Blow”
National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, MD, PhD, said that a sequestration cut of 6.4% would be a “profound and devastating blow” at a time of when medical research appears to be on the cusp of breakthroughs against a wealth of diseases and conditions.

Collins’ comments came during an interview with *Politico*.

“There’s no sort of lever you can pull and all of a sudden, everything will be fine if you lose in one fell swoop 6.4% of your budget—which is what will happen on March 1 if nothing is done to prevent that,” Collins said during the interview.

Collins told *Politico* that if sequestration is enacted, each of the NIH’s 27 institutes and centers will be expected to make sacrifices. He said he is also concerned about the effect the cuts would have on grant funding rates, especially for early-career scientists.

“For people who are in the early stage of their career to just miss the pay line once, twice, three times is pretty demoralizing,” Collins said. “And they are getting demoralized.”

Fudge-Stivers Letter Asks Congress to Protect NIH Funding
A dear colleague letter from Reps. Marcia Fudge (D-OH) and Steve Stivers (R-OH) asked congressional leadership to consider the “critical importance” of the National Institutes of Health when addressing the deficit.

The letter was signed by 60 other House members, including former House homeland security committee chair Rep. Peter King (R-NY) and budget committee ranking member Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD).

“While we recognize addressing the deficit requires difficult decisions,” the letter states, “we must keep in mind the impact that federal investments in biomedical research have on creating jobs, saving lives, reducing health costs and strengthening the nation.”

“NIH is a powerful economic engine, investing more than $31 billion annually in medical research for the American people,” the letter states. “In FY11, NIH-funded research supported an estimated 432,000 jobs in the U.S. and generated more than $62 billion in new economic activity, more than double the taxpayers’ investment.”

“After a decade of flat funding, the NIH budget is 20% lower than it was in 2003. Sequestration will reduce NIH funding more … These haphazard cuts threaten the health of sick patients—along with the health of our nation.”

A M E R I C A S P E A K S

Roughly one-and-a-half percent of government spending is allocated for biomedical and health research. Would you say that amount is …

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<th>Amount of Biomedical and Health Research Spending</th>
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<tr>
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<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>About right</td>
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<td>48%</td>
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Source: A Research!America poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in December 2012. (Totals do not add to 100% due to rounding.)
The research advocate

GLOBAL HEALTH

RD ADVOCACY

In the year since the signing of the London Declaration on Neglected Tropical Diseases, key players in the NTD community have begun assessing the progress in the global fight against these deadly diseases. In January, the World Health Organization, Uniting to Combat NTDs, the Institute of Medicine and the Hudson Institute all released reports discussing NTDs and the global health research landscape. Notable successes over the past year include more than 1 billion treatment donations from pharmaceutical companies as well as new diagnostics and NTD control plans. However, funding gaps remain and greater investments in R&D for new tools to combat NTDs are urgently needed. Research!America is tracking these reports and other game-changers for global health and neglected diseases in a new blog series entitled “NTD Highlights of the Week.” Please visit http://bit.ly/YdpUlj for the first post in the series.

Tufts Identifies Drug Development Trends in 2013

The Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development has released 2013 Outlook, which forecasts trends in the R&D and regulatory landscape for drug development. Among the near-term trends:

- Drug companies will continue to move from traditional research methods and toward the inclusion of biomarkers, computer modeling and “adaptive” clinical trial designs.
- Clinical trial sponsors will reduce the number of investigative sites and the number of countries in which the trials are held.
- Biosimilars will undergo significant growth thanks to a new, abbreviated approval process for those that are “interchangeable” with biologics that have already been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

“The emergence of open innovation models, where scientists worldwide openly share knowledge, and novel partnerships and alliances hold significant promise to transform the nature, pace and cost of new drug development—to the benefit of patients, as well as to drug sponsors, their development partners, and investors,” said Kenneth I. Kaitin, PhD, director of Tufts CSDD.

2013 Outlook is available for purchase at the CSDD’s website: http://csdd.tufts.edu.

Important to Make R&D Tax Credit Permanent

Since 1981, the federal government has offered a tax credit to businesses pursuing research and development activities. This credit is not permanent, however, and has to be reconsidered regularly. This prevents businesses from being able to plan ahead when it comes to R&D spending. How important is it that the federal research and development tax credit is made permanent?

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Join Us March 13, 2013, for Research!America’s Advocacy Awards Dinner!

Join Research!America and its members, partners and supporters to honor the nation’s most outstanding individuals and organizations who have made a difference in advocacy for medical, health and scientific research. This year’s honorees include John Crowley, John Mendelsohn, MD; Diane Rehm; Mark Rosenberg, MD; and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The winner of the Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy will be announced soon.

Become a sponsor! To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, email Carol Kennedy, senior director of development and membership, at ckennedy@researchamerica.org.

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- Visit our blog: www.researchamerica.org/blog
Today:

:: In the US, more than 1.6 million people were expected to develop cancer in 2012, with a lifetime probability of 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women being affected.*

:: As the second leading cause of death in the US, cancer led to approximately 575,000 deaths in 2012, equivalent to almost 1,600 deaths per day.*

:: Cancer is the leading cause of death among Hispanics.*

:: Cancer death rates are highest among African Americans, followed by Caucasians, Native Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans.**

:: An estimated 12,000 children between ages 0-14 are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2012, and 1,340 will die from the disease.*

*SOURCE: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (WWW.CANCER.ORG)
**SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (WWW.CDC.GOV)

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

:: Over the past 40 years, mortality rates for childhood cancer have been reduced significantly, dropping 66% during this time period due to early detection techniques and treatment.*

:: In a study funded by the National Cancer Institute, among bone marrow cancer patients receiving a bone marrow transplant, patients taking lenalidomide, a drug which inhibits factors that cause inflammation, experienced nearly 60% slower disease progression than those who received a placebo.*

* SOURCE: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY (WWW.CANCER.ORG).

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

:: Eighty-three percent of lung cancer cases are directly due to smoking. In a ten year study examining smoking cessation programs, it was estimated that for every dollar spent on the programs, more than five dollars were saved. During this period, more than $1.5 billion was saved due to prevention of hospital visits. This health services research affirms the cost effectiveness of smoking cessation programs to help shape policymaking.*

:: Screening 50 to 64 year olds for colorectal cancer could translate into Medicare savings of $15 billion over 15 years through prevention and reduced treatment costs.**

**SOURCE: NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER ROUNDTABLE (WWW.NCCRT.ORG).

The Cost:

:: Annual direct and indirect (due to illness related loss of productivity or early death) costs of cancer totaled $263.8 billion in 2010.*

:: A study funded by the National Institutes of Health projects that, based on current trends, the annual cost of treating cancer will increase 27% to $158 billion by the year 2020.*

*SOURCE: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH (WWW.AACR.ORG)
**SOURCE: NATIONAL COLORECTAL CANCER ROUNDTABLE (WWW.NCCRT.ORG)

s u r v i v o r :

NAME: Andrea Kramer
AGE: 52
CONDITION: Colorectal Cancer
STAGE: III

A physically active mother of two, Andrea started experiencing stomach problems right before a trip overseas. She visited a gastroenterologist where she lives in Rye, New York. Among the tests performed by the gastroenterologist was a colonoscopy he recommended to “rule out some possibilities.” Expecting a diagnosis of colitis, Andrea and her family were shocked to learn that at age 47, she had stage III colorectal cancer.

For the next year, Andrea underwent aggressive treatment, first with radiation and chemotherapy, followed by surgery. After surgery, twenty-six of her lymph nodes tested positive for cancer and further chemotherapy was given. Support from her family and friends and the excellent work of her doctors helped her through this ordeal.

Her experience at the hospitals made her realize that not enough is being done for colon cancer, and “there are not enough people out there raising money or talking about it.” Andrea kept telling herself, “If I survive, I am going to do something.”

In the US, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death. More research is needed to improve survival rates. Andrea is now raising awareness and funding for colorectal cancer through several organizations including Fight Colorectal Cancer, American Cancer Society, and Colon Cancer Alliance.

“If you think research is expensive, try disease.”

— Mary Lasker 1901-1994
Cancer

Hope for the Future:

:: Repurposing of the drug metformin, typically used to treat type 2 diabetes, is providing positive outcomes for several cancers including liver, prostate, and skin.*
:: Use of genetic information to personalize drug therapy is providing encouraging results in children. In patients with a type of blood cancer, physicians can determine if the child will respond positively based on genetic information.**

*SOURCE: SOURCE: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR CANCER RESEARCH (WWW.AACR.ORG)
**SOURCE: NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE (WWW.CANCER.GOV)

The Bottom Line:

Research offers the best defense against the staggering toll cancer takes on American lives and on our economy. Cancer research is providing insight into targeted treatment options that can reduce costly ineffective care. Also, research is discovering new tools to achieve a higher rate of early diagnosis which can reduce costs by improving survival rates. Continued funding is crucial as researchers make amazing progress in combating the spectrum of cancers that place Americans at risk.

Estimated Number of New Cancer Cases* and Cancer Deaths** for 2012

Source: American Cancer Society
Cancer Facts & Figures 2012

Quality of Life Has Been Improved By Medical Research, Voters Say

Thinking of the last decade, would you say your quality of life has been improved by medical research?

22% Yes, a great deal
44% Yes, somewhat
23% No
20% Not sure

SOURCE: NATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION POLL, AUGUST 2012. JZ ANALYTICS FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA WITH SUPPORT FROM UNITED FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

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