Sens. Burr, Casey Named 2013 Whitehead Winners

Noted research champions Sens. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Bob Casey (D-PA) have been announced as the winners of the 2013 Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy. Burr and Casey will receive the award in person at Research!America’s annual Advocacy Awards on March 13, 2013, in Washington, DC.

Both are long-standing champions for medical research in both the public and private sectors; in 2012, they jointly penned a Dear Colleague letter to members of the Senate Appropriations Committee requesting a strong commitment to the National Institutes of Health in the FY13 budget.

Burr, during his time in the House, introduced a bill that led to the creation of the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering at the NIH. As a senator, he introduced legislation to allow rapid developments of certain types of drugs and vaccines. Burr has also introduced legislation to help the Food and Drug Administration get new drugs and medical devices into the hands of patients more quickly.

Casey has authored separate pieces of legislation that would double the R&D tax credit for life science companies and foster research breakthroughs for rare and neglected diseases. His Dear Colleague letter in 2012 pointed out a breakthrough in genetics research and reminded colleagues of the importance of maintaining funding for the NIH. In 2011, he was named Legislator of the

Status of Sequestration, FY14 Budget Muddy as Deadlines Approach

Sequestration, or deep across-the-board budget cuts, will hit on March 1 unless Congress enacts alternative legislation. At the time of this writing, Senate Democrats have put forward an alternate plan that would trim defense and agricultural spending while raising additional revenues. However, many House Members have called for allowing sequestration to take effect, an outcome that would, for the first time in decades, actually reduce the nation’s investment in medical research. It would also cut resources for the Food and Drug Administration, an agency that by all accounts is stretched so thin that basic food safety, protection against tainted or counterfeit food and drug imports, and the timeliness of access to new diagnostics, medicines and medical devices are all at risk. Cuts to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—the workhorse that ensures the public’s health day in and day out—and the National Science Foundation—which funds basic science across a spectrum of American priorities—would be equally damaging.

Meanwhile, the annual budgeting

Majority: Medical Research is Not Making Sufficient Progress

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**SOURCE:** A RESEARCH!AMERICA POLL OF U.S. ADULTS CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ZOGBY ANALYTICS IN DECEMBER 2012.
AACN’s CEO, Geraldine “Polly” Bednash, PhD, RN, came to AACN in 1986; she explains the organization’s growth like this: “When I first started at AACN, we had seven staff members, and this organization was basically a networking group for deans of nursing programs,” she said. “Now, however, AACN has nearly 50 employees and strives to benefit everyone involved in nursing academics—deans, faculty, students, grad students, researchers and business staff.”

As a profession, nursing has expanded similarly. Besides the traditional roles of nurses as frontline caregivers, nurses can now be found as CEOs and high-level government appointees. (Bednash points out that Marilyn Tavenner, acting administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, began her career as a nurse.)

“We’ve become a much more expansive career option, with lots of places where nursing knowledge and experience and science is important to the decisions shaping both the delivery and the business of health care,” Bednash said.

Advocacy is another key facet of AACN’s work. Nurses can play a key role in explaining the implications of research to legislators and the need to follow the evidence when making health care policy. To that end, AACN has extensive resources for nurse scientists and nursing researchers to understand and explain why its work is important.

Research!America’s own work in that area is a key reason why AACN is a member.

“AACN applauds Research!America for delivering the message that science is an important part of this country’s investment for the future, and that the National Institutes of Health is a vital resource for improving the health care of our nation’s population,” Bednash said. “Research!America is making clear that research is not some esoteric, distant activity created by people in obscure places, but in fact is critically important to addressing this country’s major health care concerns.”

Learn more at www.aacn.nche.edu.

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

- 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.
- The array of fact sheets and publications produced by Research!America helps to unequivocally draw the lines between the research pipeline, the health of Americans, and the improvement in American competitiveness and the U.S. economy.
- One of those publications, America Speaks, summarizes the year in public opinion as noted by Research!America polling. The annual publication showcases trends and interesting findings concerning research to improve health.
Sequester Remains a Health Threat
In an op-ed published in *Roll Call*, Research!America Chair John E. Porter and Board member Kweisi Mfume explained how sequestration can result in a bleak outcome for medical research and innovation. They wrote, “The job of elected officials is to choose national priorities, and we believe those that advance scientific discovery and improve public health are among the highest. Our job is to hold them to that responsibility.”

State of the Union
Following the State of the Union address, Research!America issued a statement applauding the president for underscoring medical research as a national priority. The statement was included in *Genetic Engineering & Biotechnology News*, *Science* magazine blog *ScienceInsider*, PhRMA’s *The Catalyst* blog, and *Stand with Science* blog. “We’re gratified that he stressed the brutal impact of sequestration, across-the-board cuts, to medical research and reminded the country of goals within the reach of science,” said Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley.

Research Essential to Reducing Firearm Deaths
Research!America’s 2013 Advocacy Award recipient Mark L. Rosenberg, MD, president and chief executive of *The Task Force for Global Health*, was recently cited in a commentary piece in *Politico* written by Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and Nita Lowey (D-NY). The piece highlighted the importance of conducting research into the causes and prevention of gun violence.

Local Impact of Funding Cuts
Eric Hoffman, PhD, director of the Center for Genetic Medicine Research at Children’s National Medical Center, was interviewed in *The Washington Post* about the potential impact sequestration would have on innovative studies. “There’s no money to do new initiatives. There’s not enough money to do old initiatives,” said Hoffman.

In an op-ed published on *Boston.com’s Global Business Hub* blog, John Erwin, executive director of the *Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals*, discussed the impact across-the-board cuts would have on Massachusetts. “Growth in jobs and companies is absolutely fueled by federally supported early-stage research, and cuts to *National Institutes of Health* funding may have stark consequences for Massachusetts’ life sciences growth and preeminence well into the future,” Erwin wrote.

Clancy and Suresh Stepping Down
Research!America issued a statement following the announcement of the departure of Carolyn Clancy, MD, as director of the *Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality*. The statement was mentioned in *The Hill’s Healthwatch* and *Modern Healthcare*. Research!America also released a statement about the departure of Subra Suresh, MS, ScD, as director of the *National Science Foundation*.

Support for Stem Cell Research
Research!America’s national public opinion poll data about Americans’ support for expanding federal funding for stem cell research was the lead for a story on Washington DC’s local CBS affiliate news site, *CBSLocal.com*. The story focused on scientists who are producing stem cells using 3-D printers.
and appropriations process has already been slowed by the ongoing fiscal disarray gripping Congress. The president’s budget has been significantly delayed and is slated for release in mid-March. This does not bode well for having a 2014 budget in time for the start of the fiscal year on October 1, 2013.

Advocates must reach out to their congressional representatives right away and urge them to avert any deficit reduction plan that abdicates our long-standing commitment to sustaining a robust pipeline for medical advances, to health research that maximizes the value of those medical advances, and to maintaining a rock solid front against public health threats. Our nation is at a critical juncture: Do we balance the budget by making expedient ones? Or do we all work together to make smart choices or spin our wheels by making expedient ones?


State of the Union
President Barack Obama stressed the importance of reaching a “level of research and development not seen since the height of the space race” in his State of the Union address. Medical research was clearly among his top priorities.

In particular, he called out the burden of Alzheimer’s disease, but he also highlighted the immense return on investment that our nation reaps from public investments in research. Case in point is the Human Genome Project, which returned an estimated $141 for every tax dollar that was invested in the project.

As advocates, it is critical to realize that we all had a role in making this possible. To continue those gains, we must turn up the volume so high that policy makers cannot ignore it: We need cures, not cuts.

**EXCHlGhED FROM PAGE 1**

### CPH Foundation Update
The CPH Foundation delivered a letter to Members of Congress to stress the need to avoid cuts to the CDC and other elements of the public health infrastructure.

The letter’s signatories included former Members of Congress, former federal agency executives, current health officers from Fortune 500 companies, and a former surgeon general.

“Given all the CDC and its local partners do to keep our population from entering the ever-more costly health care system,” the letter states, “the threat of additional CDC cuts is troubling … This is not a time to further degrade the CDC’s budget and our state and local prevention efforts. As you grapple with the many legislative issues facing the 113th Congress, we encourage you to protect and strengthen our nation’s disease control and prevention infrastructure.”

## 2013 FEDERAL RESEARCH BUDGET

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<th>FY13 President’s Request</th>
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<td>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**</td>
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* CDC cost 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.
Research!America Mourns the Loss of C. Everett Koop

Former Surgeon General and Research!America Honorary Director C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD, died February 25 at his home in Hanover, NH. He was 96.

Koop served as Surgeon General from 1981 to 1989. After leaving the office, he became a Research!America Honorary Director. In 2009, he was honored with Research!America’s Raymond and Beverly Sackler Award for Sustained National Leadership.

“Koop’s innovative thinking saved lives and improved quality of life for many Americans” Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley said in a statement. “In 1994, he partnered with us to create a widely viewed national public service campaign in support of medical research. Nearly 20 years later, the campaign is still recognized for its impactful message that ‘insufficient medical research can be hazardous to your health.’ His leadership served to elevate the importance of research and public health in our national conversation with unparalleled success. His legacy is second to none.”

Clancy, Suresh to Step Down from Federal Agencies

Two leaders at federal research agencies have recently announced that they will leave their positions.

Carolyn Clancy, MD, will leave the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Subra Suresh, MS, ScD, will depart the National Science Foundation. Following his tenure at the NSF, Suresh will take over as president of Carnegie Mellon University on July 1. Clancy is expected to stay at her post until her successor takes over.

Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley praised the efforts of both leaders.

“Clancy has been a stalwart champion of medical and health services research during her decade-long leadership at the AHRQ” and that hers “is an important and lasting legacy,” Woolley said. Additionally, she noted that “Suresh has been a visionary leader for the scientific community during his tenure at the NSF” and praised his efforts as “a vocal proponent of elevating the importance of science and discovery in public policy.”
Martha N. Hill, PhD, RN, dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and a Research!America Board member, was chosen by the Maryland Daily Record for its 2013 list of 50 influential Marylanders.


Hudson Institute and the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases released “Social and Economic Impact Review on Neglected Tropical Diseases,” which examines the seven most common NTDs not only as health issues but also as a global macroeconomic concern.

Cantor: Facilitating Medical Breakthroughs Should be a Priority

In a speech that laid out policy priorities for the 113th Congress, House Majority Leader Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA) signaled his support for medical research in both the public and private sector.

“Long-term, controlling health care costs will require smarter federal investments in medical research,” Cantor said in the speech at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC. “Many of today’s cures and lifesaving treatments are a result of an initial federal investment. And much of it is spent on cancer research and other grave illnesses … There is an appropriate and necessary role for the federal government to ensure funding for basic medical research. Doing all we can to facilitate medical breakthroughs … should be a priority. We can and must do better.”

That included, he said, “cutting unnecessary red tape in order to speed up the availability of lifesaving drugs and treatments.”

Sen. Tom Harkin, Longtime Research Champion, Announces Retirement

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA) has announced that he will not seek reelection in 2014 following his fifth term in the Senate. Harkin has proven to be a champion for research during his time in the Senate, particularly as chairman for the Committee on Health, Labor, Education and Pensions. Additionally, he has served on the appropriations subcommittee which decides the funding levels for several federal agencies related to health and medical research.

Harkin has been a major proponent for health and wellness while in the Senate, including efforts to create a robust public health system and ensure access to preventative care for all people. He was honored with Research!America’s Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy in 2002.

Did You Know

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AMERICA Speaks

How important is it that our nation support research that focuses on improving how our health care system is functioning?


Very Important to Fund Research on U.S. Health Care System

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<td>Not too important</td>
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**Report: 5,000 New Medicines Being Evaluated, 800 in Stage 3 Trials**

A report from Analysis Group, with support from PhRMA, has found a record 5,000 new medicines are being tested in humans. Of them, 800 are in Stage 3 clinical trials and, of those, 70% have the potential to be first-in-class.

The report also found that the number of personalized medicines and drugs for rare diseases continues to grow and that many of the medicines in the pipeline are expected to treat conditions that have not had a new therapy approved in more than 10 years.

Download the full report here: http://onphr.ma/12MLBFY

**Research!America, ACS CAN Hold Twitter Chat**

Research!America and the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network held a pre-State of the Union Twitter chat a day before the president’s annual address to Congress. Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley and ACS CAN President Chris Hansen discussed important facts about sequestration’s impact to medical research with participants. Some of the followers included United for Medical Research, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Public Health Funding, American Heart Association, Rep. Brian Higgins (D-NY) and others.

**New Date for National Health Research Forum**

Research!America’s National Health Research Forum will be held September 12, 2013, at the Newseum in Washington, DC. This marks the first time that the forum will be held in the fall, as it has previously been held in March. The forum represents an opportunity for leaders in government, industry, academia, patient advocacy organizations and the media to convene for a thoughtful discussion on current topics.

**2013 Whitehead Winners**

Year by the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO).

“Senators Burr and Casey exemplify what it means to be a research champion,” said Research!America’s chair, The Honorable John Edward Porter. “They have each devoted their energies to ensuring that federal funding and policies are aligned with the goal of accelerating medical progress, from basic research to private sector discovery to timely patient access. Congressional support for the public and private sector research pipeline is critical to capitalize on recent breakthroughs, maintain our global competitiveness as other nations dramatically ramp up their investments in medical innovation, and fight back against costly, devastating illnesses such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, heart disease and cancer.”

**AMERICA SPEAKS**

**More Than Half of Americans Willing to Pay Tax for Research**

Would you be willing to pay $1 per week more in taxes if you were certain that all of the money would be spent on additional medical research?

- Yes: 54%
- No: 28%
- Not sure: 19%

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.)
Coming Up


Advocacy & Action

Take Action TODAY to Save Research

The White House has recently spoken out about the need to delay sequestration—deep across-the-board budget cuts scheduled to take effect March 1. Sequestration would cut billions out of the budgets for NIH, CDC, FDA and NSF—key agencies that support medical research.

Our nation is facing growing health challenges, and we must boost investments in research to find new lifesaving cures, treatments and prevention strategies. Please join this urgent effort and call and email your representatives right away and as always, be sure to share this alert on Facebook and with your networks.

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