Showdown Ahead on Budgetary, Fiscal Issues

During the August recess, there certainly was heated rhetoric from Members of Congress, particularly about the need to raise the debt limit and whether Republicans can negotiate budget cuts and reforms in return for agreeing to another increase in the limit. President Barack Obama has stated that he will not negotiate on the debt limit, which sets the stage for a tense showdown starting when Congress returns to Washington on September 9.

The debt ceiling has taken center stage earlier than expected. It originally appeared that Congress would focus only on appropriations in September, likely passing a short-term continuing resolution to fund the government at post-sequestration FY13 levels. The bigger debate—encompassing the debt ceiling, full-year appropriations, potentially the future of sequestration and even (although unlikely) tax and entitlement reform—was expected to take place in November or December. However, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew now predicts that government spending will reach the debt ceiling in mid-October. Others claim that the debt ceiling won’t be reached until early November. This may or may not change the appropriations dynamic, potentially prompting policy makers to make longer-term decisions about FY14 and confront sequestration at the same time.

National Health Research Forum: Straight Talk About Research

Research!America’s National Health Research Forum, which convenes medical research experts from government, academia, industry, professional societies and patient advocacy, will be held September 12 at the Newseum’s Knight Conference Center in Washington, DC.

The luncheon, previously held in the spring, will feature three panels for an in-depth discussion centering on this year’s theme: Straight Talk about the Future of Medical and Health Research. The first panel will be moderated by Eleanor Clift, contributing editor for Newsweek and a contributor to The Daily Beast. Panelists include John Crowley, JD, MBA, president and CEO of Amicus Therapeutics, patient advocate, and 2013 Research!America Advocacy Award winner; William Hait, MD, PhD, global head of R&D at Janssen Pharmaceuticals and a Research!America Board member; Margaret Hamburg, MD, commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration; Bart Peterson, JD, senior vice president of corporate affairs and communications for Lilly; and E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, senior vice president of medical affairs at the University of Maryland.

AMERICA SPEAKS

Physician Recommendations Matter to Potential Clinical Trial Participants

If your doctor found a clinical trial for you and recommended you join, how likely would you be to participate in a clinical trial?


The Association of Clinical Research Organizations launched a new video series on R&D, innovation and economic growth, which includes Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley: http://bit.ly/1ckmkcV

The American Chemical Society released a video series on federal science funding at risk: http://bit.ly/157HxSg

On August 25, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the law that gave ACS its congressional charter. Its mandates included the promotion of research and advancement of the science; maintenance of standards of ethics and education; increase and diffusion of chemical knowledge; and promotion of the science in the interest of public happiness and welfare, education and economic development.

This language, from a 76-year old public law, may seem dusty. Instead, it is dynamic: Madeleine Jacobs, ACS executive director and CEO, refers to the charter each time she meets a new employee. “It guides us in everything we do,” Jacobs said. “We’re very proud to be one of the few organizations to have it and, believe me, I cite this all the time.”

Another guiding principle is ACS’ tagline, “Chemistry for life,” which intentionally incorporates the facet of medical research. Chemistry is the basis for pharmaceuticals, after all, and Jacobs said ACS has 40,000 industrial and academic members involved in the life sciences in some way. She added that many ACS members receive funding from the National Institutes of Health. “It’s a big source of funding for a large number of our academic members,” she said.

Jacobs explained that ACS advocates for a “vital, robust and sustained” scientific enterprise. Other prongs of its advocacy include a favorable environment for industry and entrepreneurs as well as a workforce that is well-educated in the STEM fields.

Those are also tenets of Research!America’s advocacy, and that alignment is a key reason why ACS is a member of Research!America’s alliance. “I don’t think that we can be successful working in a vacuum, working individually. I think we can be much more successful when we work together,” Jacobs said. “[Research!America is] the kind of coalition we want to be involved in … Whatever we can bring to the table in helping you achieve, I think it also means we will be achieving things for our members as well.”

Visit www.acs.org.

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

- Our National Health Research Forum brings together thought leaders from throughout the research world to examine the current and future landscape of research to improve health. Federal agency leaders, nonprofit executives, researchers and key media lead a discussion that informs Research!America membership and members of the public who care about research.

- Publications by Research!America explain the importance of health and medical research to Americans. Our upcoming report, U.S. Investment in Health Research, details cross-sector spending on research to improve health and provides year-to-year trends on whether those investments are increasing or decreasing.
Cuts to Research Undermine Medical Innovation

In an op-ed published on CNN.com titled “A do-nothing Congress isn’t healthy,” Research!America Chair John E. Porter calls upon policy makers to “get beyond the rhetoric and take decisive action to strengthen our nation’s investments in research.”

Clear and Effective Advocacy Communications

Research!America Board member Alan Leshner, PhD, CEO of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, was quoted in an article in Nature about how scientists can effectively communicate to the media. Research!America President and CEO Mary Woolley also offered advice in the piece.

August Congressional Recess

Mary Woolley was interviewed by radio stations in key congressional districts during the August congressional recess about the impact of budget cuts to research. Interviews were aired on New Jersey 101.5, Nebraska Radio Network and WITF-FM (Harrisburg, PA).

Minority Representation in Clinical Trials

Research!America’s national public opinion poll on clinical trials with data from minority populations yielded several news articles from Inside Health Policy, Medical Daily, Medical News Today, Pharma Marketing Blog, Pharmalot and SaludToday.

Medical Research: A Return on Investment

Claire Pomeroy, MD, president of the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, wrote an op-ed for The Huffington Post about the value of medical research. “The return on investment is guaranteed—medical research saves lives, creates jobs, spurs innovation, reduces health care expenditures, advances competitiveness and improves the nation’s health and economic well-being,” she wrote.

Sequestration in the News

In an op-ed published by Reuters, former Research!America Board member and Friends of Cancer Research Chairperson and Founder Ellen Sigal, PhD, notes that sequestration is “every bit as deadly as the medical kind [of malpractice].” She calls attention to the impact of sequestration to the Food and Drug Administration and, ultimately, patients.

Mary Woolley was interviewed in The New Republic about the negative impact of sequestration on research. “If federal funding continues to decline, our leadership status in the short term will be tenuous at best,” she said.
they address the debt ceiling. At the time of this writing, it is unclear whether September will bring a short-term continuing resolution or a bigger legislative package.

The House’s Labor-H appropriations bill was never marked up before Congress left town for its August recess. Some believe that National Institutes of Health was protected in it, but the best we can expect “protected” to mean in this fiscal climate is that it will sustain less of a cut than anticipated. The bill likely would cut the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and could eliminate the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute could also be eliminated under the bill, along with funding for health economics research. If recent history is any guide, the bill is also likely to contain provisions tying the hands of the director of NIH in a number of ways, including restrictions on the dollars that can be used for intramural research and on the activities in which the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences can engage. The Senate is likely to reject these provisions and continue funding for AHRQ and PCORI.

### 2013 FEDERAL RESEARCH BUDGET

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<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>FY12 Actual</th>
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* CDC core budget  
** Excludes funding from transfers
New AHRQ Director Named; New NSF Director Nominated

Two agencies involved in scientific and medical research will soon have new leadership.

Richard Kronick, PhD, has been named the new director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. He replaces Carolyn Clancy, MD, who had led the agency since 2003.

Kronick has been with the Department of Health and Human Services since 2010, where he has served as assistant secretary for planning and evaluation. In addition to experience with the Clinton administration, Kronick previously conducted health policy research at the University of California, San Diego and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The White House, meanwhile, has nominated France A. Córdova, PhD, to lead the National Science Foundation. She is currently chair of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution and most recently served as the president of Purdue University. She has served in a variety of other roles in academia and government.

The Senate must still approve Córdova and 17 other appointees.

Bureau of Economic Analysis Reclassifies R&D as an Investment

With its most recent release of gross domestic product numbers, the Bureau of Economic Analysis has revised its figures to include research and development costs as an investment, not an expense. An article by Bloomberg noted that, as it relates to GDP, the R&D figure will depreciate according to a prescribed schedule.

The new calculation added about $300 billion to GDP in 2010.

“It’s gotten to be an even bigger part of the economy, so it’s incumbent on us to incorporate it,” BEA Director Steven Landefeld, PhD, told Reuters.

The change arose from a 2008 agreement at the United Nations, when its members agreed to new standards to measure economic growth, Reuters reported. The European Union will make a similar switch next year.

Baldwin Announces Plan to Introduce Next Generation Research Act

During a recent speech at the Medical College of Wisconsin, Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) said that, when Congress returns in September, she will introduce legislation that aims to prevent the loss of the next generation of scientists and researchers.

According to the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the Next Generation Research Act would establish an initiative at the National Institutes of Health that would promote young scientists, provide mentorship and grant-writing assistance, and direct the National Academy of Sciences to produce a report on the challenges to early-career scientists.

“The easiest answer would be public investment,” Baldwin said, according to the newspaper. But “absent you giving me a magic wand, I’m not going to be able to reverse sequestration on my own.”

National Health Research Forum

Continued from page 1

dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The second panel will be moderated by Michelle Miller, correspondent for CBS News. The panelists are Patrick Conway, MD, acting director of the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation; Tom Frieden, MD, MPH, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Jay Gershen, DDS, PhD, president of Northeast Ohio Medical University and a Research!America Board member; Foti Panagakos, DMD, PhD, global director of scientific affairs for Colgate-Palmolive; and Lisa Simpson, MB, BCh, MPH, president and CEO of AcademyHealth.

The third panel will be moderated by Norm Ornstein, PhD, resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute and a contributing editor for National Journal and The Atlantic. The panelists include Tony Coles, MD, CEO of Onyx Pharmaceuticals; Francis Collins, MD, PhD, director of the National Institutes of Health; Victor Dzau, MD, president and CEO of Duke University Health System, chancellor for health affairs at Duke University and a Research!America Board member; Robert Hariri, MD, PhD, CEO of Celgene Cellular Therapeutics; and Debra Lappin, JD, counsel for FaegreBD Consulting, patient advocate and a Research!America Board member.

Event sponsors include Lilly, Celgene, Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Colgate-Palmolive, Johnson & Johnson, The Hill, Politico, American Medical Association, Genentech, Northeast Ohio Medical University, Duke University Health System, and University of Maryland School of Medicine.

Register for the event at www.researchamerica.org/2013forum. Admission is free for Research!America members; for those not affiliated with a Research!America member organization, the cost is $125.
Latest Golden Goose Award Winner Announced

John Eng, MD, was recently named as the latest winner of the Golden Goose Awards. Eng, a one-time researcher with the Veterans Administration, discovered that the venom contained in the bite of a Gila monster had components that could aid diabetics. His research, funded by the VA, later caught the attention of Amylin Pharmaceuticals, which developed the discovery into a drug.

“Medicine from monsters and venom may sound like a science-fiction novel, but it’s a real-life breakthrough,” said Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), who first proposed the Golden Goose Award. “Dr. Eng’s research shows that we can’t abandon science funding only because we don’t know where it might lead. Just ask millions of diabetics whose lives have been improved by his discovery.”

“Dr. Eng’s research demonstrates the necessity of federally supported basic research,” said Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA), another congressional supporter of the Golden Goose Award. “We owe it to future generations to lay the groundwork now for tomorrow’s breakthroughs.”

2014 Lurie Prize Call for Nominations

The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health is accepting nominations for the 2014 Lurie Prize in the Biomedical Sciences, an annual award recognizing outstanding achievement by a young scientist in biomedical research. The prize, $100,000, is made possible by a gift from philanthropist Ann Lurie.

The nominator must be a member of an accredited educational and/or scientific institution; the candidate must be 52 years old or younger on January 1, 2014; all nomination materials must be in English; and no self-nominations are allowed.

The awardee will be selected by a jury of six distinguished biomedical researchers, chaired by Solomon H. Snyder, MD, Distinguished Service Professor of Neuroscience, Pharmacology and Psychiatry of the Solomon H. Snyder Department of Neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. The deadline to submit nominations is October 1 at 1 p.m. Eastern.
FDA Report Notes Lack of Diversity in Clinical Trials

The Food and Drug Administration recently released a report which analyzed the lack of diversity in clinical trials. The report focused on 72 drug and device applications that were approved by the agency in 2011. The congressionally mandated study—required under last year’s FDA user-fee law—found that while racial minorities tend to be underrepresented in the clinical trials for drugs and devices, the lack of diversity does not compromise the results.

In the report, the FDA noted that typically, “when demographic subgroup data are collected and analyzed, the response to a drug, a biologic or a device is generally similar across demographic groups.” However, the report also added, “It remains important that clinical trials include diverse populations whenever possible and appropriate.”

Research!America recently released public opinion polling on clinical trials, which included information on several minority groups. Read more about the poll at http://bit.ly/1bjQsJw.

ASBMB Survey: Funding Cuts Severely Impact Researchers

A survey of 3,700 scientists, conducted by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, a Research!America member, has found that federal budget cuts have left researchers unemployed, science unfinished and American competitiveness threatened.

The survey results appear in the report “Unlimited Potential, Vanishing Opportunity.” Of note: Only 2% of respondents have been able to find private funds to make up those lost from federal grants; half or more have laid off research staff or seen a colleague lose a job; and a wide majority believe the U.S. has lost its position as a global leader in scientific research.


444 New Medicines in the Pipeline for Neurological Disorders

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), a Research!America member, released a report on the nearly 450 new, innovative medicines to prevent and treat neurological disorders. All of these treatments are now in human clinical trials or under review by the Food and Drug Administration.

PhRMA President and CEO John Castellani said in a statement that these medicines “have the potential to bring us ever closer to our shared goal of improving the health and extending the lives of the patients facing these debilitating disorders … Even with all the advancements made to date—and the hope in the pipeline—we have much to learn about how the human brain functions.”

PhRMA estimates that these new medicines could help nearly 140 million Americans suffering from a wide range of neurological disorders.

How did you hear about clinical trials? (multiple responses allowed)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>Patient organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>8%</td>
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Source: A Research!America Poll of U.S. Adults Conducted in Partnership with Zogby Analytics in May 2013.
Coming Up


October 9, 2013—Research Matters Communications Workshop, Washington, DC. www.researchamerica.org/communicationsworkshop

Advocacy & Action

Congress Must Commit to Medical Research

Congress will be making funding decisions for all or part of FY14 in September, and it may also decide whether to eliminate, modify or simply leave in place the annual, arbitrary budget cuts known as sequestration. If we want the federal government to continue to adequately seed the research pipeline so that researchers can find treatments and cures for deadly diseases like cancer and Alzheimer’s, Congress needs to hear from us. Now. Tell your representatives in Congress to speak out and fight for the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the other health agencies that spur medical progress and safeguard the health and safety of Americans day in and day out.

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Watch our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/researchamerica
Visit our blog: www.researchamerica.org/blog
Register today for the Research Matters Communication Workshop

Promoting Basic Research in a New Age of Communications: Challenges and Opportunities

October 9, 2013 | Washington, DC

Join Research!America, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Elsevier, The George Washington University and the Society for Neuroscience for a workshop to enable early career scientists to effectively communicate the importance of biomedical research to the media and policy makers.

Plenary Session Speaker:
• Christie Nicholson, Lecturer, Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University

Moderators:
• Frank Sesno, director of the School of Media and Public Affairs, The George Washington University
• Debra Lappin, JD, principal, FaegreBD Consulting, Research!America Board member

Panelists:
• Cara Altimus, PhD, executive board member, Johns Hopkins Postdoc Association
• Nick Bath, JD, senior health policy advisor, Senate HELP Committee
• Patrick Carroll, legislative director, Rep. Kevin Yoder (R-KS)
• Susan Heavey, health correspondent, Reuters
• Jonathan Moreno, PhD, editor-in-chief, Science Progress blog; senior fellow, Center for American Progress
• Nancy Shute, health and medicine reporter, NPR
• Dan Smith, JD, principal, The Sheridan Group; founder and former president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Among the events planned:
• Plenary session by the Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University
• Panel Q&A session with science and health policy reporters on communicating with the media
• Panel Q&A session with policy experts on communicating with elected officials
• Discussion with top Elsevier editors on tips for getting published in scientific journals
• Capitol Hill meetings
• Continental breakfast and light luncheon

www.researchamerica.org/communicationsworkshop

Click to Register

Get 50% off the registration fee now through September 13:
$37.50 for participants affiliated with Research!America members

$75 for participants not affiliated with Research!America members

The deadline to register is Friday, September 20, 2013

Get 50% off the registration fee now through September 13:
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