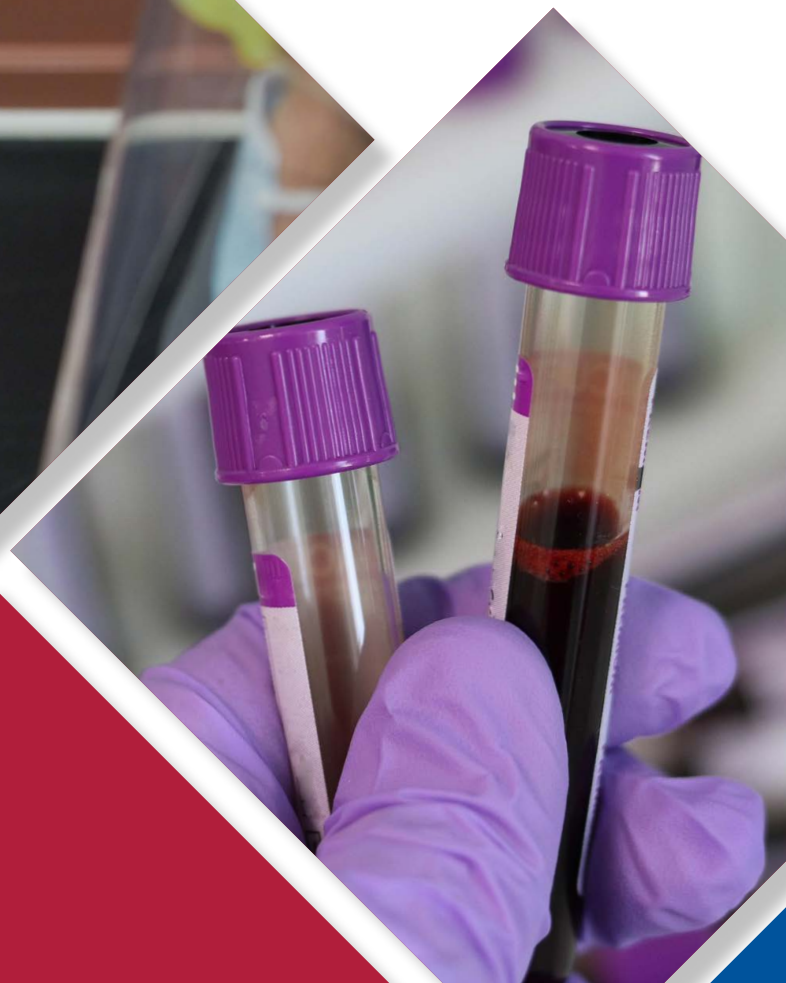


# Moving Forward Together

Advancing Research  
for a Healthier Nation

Annual Report  
2021

**RESEARCH  
AMERICA**  
DISCOVERY. INNOVATION. HEALTH.



# Dear Advocate,

The theme of this report, “Moving Forward, Together,” speaks to all that the Research!America alliance accomplished in 2021 and to the critical work ahead. The “secret sauce” of Research!America is our alliance. We are grateful to our member organizations for your partnership, insights, and commitment to advocate for faster medical and health progress.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge our nation and our world in 2021, the Research!America alliance promoted the need to fuel research and innovation to fight current health threats and fund the research necessary to prepare for future health challenges.

If 2020 was about vaccine development, 2021 was about vaccination—a colossal undertaking. In 2021, more than half a billion COVID-19 vaccine shots were administered in the United States, and more than 9 billion worldwide.

The success of the vaccine in reducing death and serious illness is a testament to decades of unwavering focus by scientists inside and outside of government.

The vaccination effort has required robust collaboration across government at all levels, working in partnership with industry and the public health community. As the world learned by trial and error (not unlike the process of science), the Research!America alliance worked with policymakers to apply those learnings to pandemic preparedness legislation and to step up federal investment.

We advocated together for increased federal funding for NIH, CDC, FDA, NSF, and AHRQ and built momentum to stand up ARPA-H (Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health), the proposed incubator for high risk, high reward translational science. ARPA-H is modeled on the Defense Advanced Projects Research Agency, or DARPA, which has driven breakthrough advances for the U.S. Department of Defense for more than 60 years. Innovative solutions like ARPA-H are the kinds of big thinking necessary to address future challenges.

We partnered with the Lasker Foundation on a report highlighting the impact of research on 60 diseases and conditions. It shows how medical research has radically transformed outcomes and survival rates for issues like childhood leukemia and HIV. The report serves as a powerful resource to advocate for research investment.

We created opportunities throughout the year for advocates to stay informed, to engage with influential experts, and to provide substantive input into public policy. These included our popular weekly alliance member webinars, the information-rich National Health Research Forum, the social media-driven Public Health Thank You Day campaign, and more.

We increased our commitment to supporting early career scientists by hosting our first-ever early career summit. The tremendous enthusiasm voiced by young researchers for building on their existing accomplishments, and learning and sharing new skills, was inspiring. We also offered microgrants for graduate-level science policy and civic engagement initiatives for a third year, with more to come!

Having canceled our 2020 Advocacy Awards due to the pandemic's onset, we held the 2021 event virtually, honoring two years' worth of individuals and organizations for their stellar contributions to health-related research. President Biden, Oprah Winfrey, Renée Fleming, Lester Holt, and many others lent their time, talent, and expertise to the event, raising visibility and support for research advocates and public health champions. In late 2021, we received a generous gift from Johnson & Johnson to support a new category of Advocacy Awards, the *Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Awards*.

As our annual report further illustrates, your continued support made it possible for us to expand our reach further and broaden our vision for what's ahead. We move forward, together.

With gratitude,



Susan Dentzer, Chair,  
Research!America  
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Dentzer".



Mary Woolley  
President and CEO,  
Research!America

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley".

# Policy Highlights

Throughout 2021, Research!America advocated for statutory and regulatory policies that align with public and private sector-fueled R&D to advance progress against deadly and debilitating health issues.

- Successfully advocated for increased NIH, NSF, FDA, CDC, and AHRQ funding in pending Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bills
- Ensured our alliance informed the conversations around:
  - Standing up Advanced Research Projects Agency – Health, a proposed incubator for high risk, high reward research.
  - 21st Century Cures 2.0 legislation, which would restore pandemic-eroded research funding and advance other key R&D objectives.
  - Health care affordability.
- Convened roundtable discussions on clinical trials diversity, sharing insights with NIH, and setting the stage for a high-level consensus conference.
- Shared input on efforts to ensure accelerated approval of medical devices is coupled with timely health care coverage of these breakthrough devices.
- Provided members of Congress with frequently updated resources on pandemic-related R&D, including vaccine and treatment trackers.
- We had 95 Congressional meetings; provided Congressional testimony focused on NIH, CDC, NSF, FDA, and AHRQ; and authored 59 letters, including an organizational sign-on letter with 208 signatories to Congressional leadership.



In partnership with the Lasker Foundation, we released a new report, "Then. Now. Imagine: An A-to-Z look at the diseases, conditions, and disorders that impact our lives."

- The report provides an overview of 60 diseases and conditions impacting people around the globe, emphasizing the ways medical science has improved outcomes today and holds potential for further progress in the decades ahead.
- All the facts and figures in the report are drawn from Research!America's "Investment in Research Saves Lives and Money" fact sheet series.

# Thank You!

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to challenge the nation and the world, Research!America's alliance promoted the need to fight present health threats and fund the medical research necessary to prepare for future health crises.

The great strength of Research!America is its member organizations. We are grateful for your partnership, insights, and commitment to advocate for faster medical and public health progress.

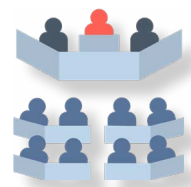


47

ALLIANCE MEMBER MEETINGS

~100

NATIONAL FORUM SPEAKERS



1,600

MEDIA MENTIONS



95

CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

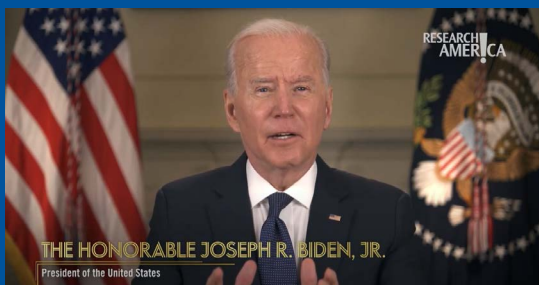
# Celebrating Our Heroes

## ADVOCACY AWARDS

The Advocacy Awards were held virtually for the first time since the awards were established in 1996.

- Honorees from 2020 and 2021 were celebrated for their contributions to medical and public health research and for their valiant work in confronting the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The program incorporated discussion and panels with the honorees allowing for a better understanding of their work and engagement with their areas of research.
- In addition to the honorees, notable figures such as President Joseph Biden, Oprah Winfrey, Renée Fleming, Lester Holt, and many others joined the program.

Conversations from the Advocacy Awards and remarks from the 2020 and 2021 honorees are available to [view and share](#).



## JOHNSON & JOHNSON ENDOWMENT

In late 2021, Research!America received a [\\$5 million endowment from Johnson & Johnson](#) to support a new category of Advocacy Awards for 2022, the *Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Awards*. The awards will be presented annually as part of the Research!America Advocacy Awards Program, and will help raise the profile of public health and its numerous heroes as they fight day in and day out to advance the public good.

# Empowering Early Career Scientists

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT MICROGRANT PROGRAM

2021 marked Research!America's 4th year of empowering early-career science civic engagement through competitive [microgrants](#) supported by a grant from the Rita Allen Foundation. There was a 50% increase in applicants and 20 dynamic projects have been funded across the country.

## EARLY CAREER SUMMIT

Research!America developed and hosted the inaugural [Early Career Summit](#), a one-day virtual conference for early career scientists to learn more about civic engagement, science communication, and science policy. Through panel discussions, training, workshops, and networking opportunities, Summit participants learned tools and techniques for the promotion of their own research and engagement with their communities.

# Engaging with Experts

## ALLIANCE MEMBER MEETINGS

In 2021, Research!America focused on delving deeply into the rapid-pace medical discovery deployed in response to COVID-19 and applying that momentum to other health threats. To help keep members informed in real time, Research!America held 47 [alliance member meetings](#) featuring exceptional leaders from government, academia, and industry on timely topics, such as:

- Pandemic Forecasting
- Misinformation and Disinformation
- Opioid Abuse
- Combating Health Disparities
- FDA Regulatory Policy
- Overcoming the "Valley of Death" in Biomedical R&D Financing

# National Health Research Forum

Research!America hosted the three-day [National Health Research Forum](#) virtually, focusing on defining a path through and beyond the pandemic.

- The Forum attracted an audience of more than 1,300 and featured nearly 100 speakers, including more than 20 sitting and former federal officials.
- Research!America was mentioned in over 400 news articles, and coverage of some of the live conversations made global news.
- There were several notable speakers, including First Lady Jill Biden and Olympic Champion Laurie Hernandez. Panels and discussions are available to [view and share](#).



# Campaigns & Advocacy

## PUBLIC HEALTH THANK YOU DAY

For 16 years, Research!America has organized an effort to say “thank you” to the public health workforce the Monday before Thanksgiving.

- In 2021, the event garnered more engagement than ever before with approximately 1,200 unique participants and involvement by state and local health departments from 31 different states.
- For the first time, #PHTYD trended in the top 10 hashtags on Twitter, dramatically broadening the reach of our message of thanks.
- The [Public Health Thank You Day webpage](#) provides timely messaging and information on the resilience and skill of the public health workforce and the role public health plays in promoting and protecting the health of the nation’s communities.

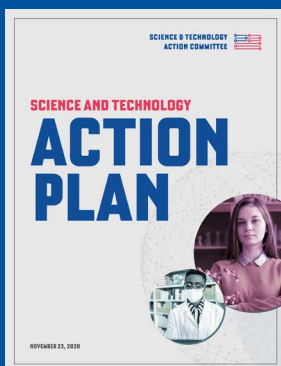


## SURVEYS

Research!America continued to keep a finger on the [pulse of public opinion](#) with a major omnibus survey in January 2021. The [America Speaks!: Poll Data Summary, Volume 21](#), serves as a resource for elected officials, writing letters to the editor, op-eds, or articles, and advocating for research to improve health.

## CONTINUING RESOLUTIONS STOP PROGRESS

In response to a pair of continuing resolutions (CR) locking in last year’s FY21 funding through February 18, 2022, Research!America developed a “count up clock” that tracks how much time has passed since a new budget was scheduled to go into effect on October 1 and didn’t. To accompany this clock, we continued to share tweets until Congress passed FY22 appropriations.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACTION COMMITTEE

Research!America continues to support the [Science and Technology Action Committee](#), an initiative that has brought a diversity of thought leaders together to make the case for a far bolder approach to bolstering the nation’s R&D capacity, including significantly increasing the percentage of the GDP devoted to science investment.

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Sarah Pol  
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Jessica Scott, PhD  
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## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

A copy of Research!America's most recently filed IRS Form 990 and audited financial statements are available on Research!America's website.

