



April 30, 2020

OFFICERS

The Hon. Michael N. Castle, Chair
The Hon. Kweisi Mfume, Vice Chair *
Mary Woolley, President
E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Secretary
Amy Comstock Rick, JD, Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

Tenley E. Albright, MD
Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Nancy Brown
Susan Dentzer
Mikael Dolsten, MD, PhD
Victor J. Dzau, MD
Jay A. Gershen, DDS, PhD
The Hon. Bart Gordon
William N. Hait, MD, PhD
Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD
The Hon. Rush D. Holt, PhD
Elizabeth Baker Keffer
Debra R. Lappin, JD
Alan I. Leshner, PhD
James L. Madara, MD
Lucinda Maine, PhD, RPh
Mark McClellan, MD, PhD
Herbert Pardes, MD
Sudip S. Parikh, PhD
Harold L. Paz, MD, MS
Guillermo Prado, PhD
Derek Rapp
Gary M. Reedy
Laing Rogers
Larry J. Shapiro, MD
Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN
M. Roy Wilson, MD
Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD
Elias A. Zerhouni, MD

CHAIR EMERITUS

The Hon. John Edward Porter

*on leave of absence

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

We greatly appreciate your determined, bipartisan efforts to mitigate the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. As you work to craft a fifth legislative package aimed at responding to this crisis, we urge you to take action on two critical fronts: 1) addressing dangerous shortfalls in the resources needed to sustain our nation's scientific research capacity; and 2) equipping the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to assure our health care system emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger, more resilient and better equipped for the next major health threat.

Research!America is truly grateful to Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) and Representatives Diana DeGette (D-CO), Fred Upton (R-MI), Anna Eshoo (D-CA), and Jackie Speier (D-CA) for their Dear Colleagues supporting resources to empower research enterprise recovery in the wake of COVID-19. The pandemic cannot be allowed to erode our global scientific leadership, jeopardize medical progress, and compromise our nation's ability to address future threats to national health and security. We ask that you provide the funding needed to reinforce COVID-19-weakened scientific capacity and enable federally-funded research that has been stalled or reprogrammed to resume as soon as possible.

We are equally grateful to Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Representative Don Beyer (D-VA) for championing the additional resources AHRQ needs to address the health system impact of COVID-19, and fully support their efforts to secure supplemental funding for AHRQ in the fifth emergency package. Our nation's health care workforce is the frontline against COVID-19. Members of that workforce and the patients they serve deserve a healthcare system that adapts to the challenges COVID-19 presents. AHRQ must be equipped with the resources needed to quickly answer questions about the

241 18th Street South
Suite 501
Arlington, VA 22202
P 703.739.2577
F 703.739.2372
E info@researchamerica.org

rapidly evolving healthcare landscape, addressing challenges and disseminating best practices. It is also the right agency to identify strategies that ensure our healthcare system is equipped for a reemergence of this pandemic or for the next broad-scale health threat well before it bears down on the American people.

Thank you, and please express our gratitude to your respective staff members, for your diligence and extraordinarily hard work. Please consider Research!America a resource if additional information about these funding needs would be useful.

Sincerely,

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

Mary Woolley
President and CEO
Research!America

CC

The Honorable Ed Markey
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
The Honorable Diana DeGette
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Anna Eshoo
The Honorable Jackie Speier
The Honorable Don Beyer