

NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH FORUM

2019 STRAIGHT TALK

NEW THINKING ON PERSISTENT CHALLENGES



At Research!America's National Health Research Forum panelists and guests made connections as they discussed solutions to today's most pressing health challenges.



Thursday, September 5, 2019

CONRAD WASHINGTON, DC

www.researchamerica.org/forum

RESEARCH
AMERICA **50** YEARS

BREAKFAST SPEAKER

CDC Director Robert M. Redfield, MD, kicked off the Forum with remarks focusing on the challenges of eliminating disease and securing global health. He emphasized how far the U.S. had come in eliminating diseases, particularly due to the power of vaccines, reminding the audience that vaccine hesitancy is one of the most serious global health threats in the world. “We have vaccines now that can prevent cancer,” he emphasized. He concluded with a strong call to action – to use science to bring solutions to life.

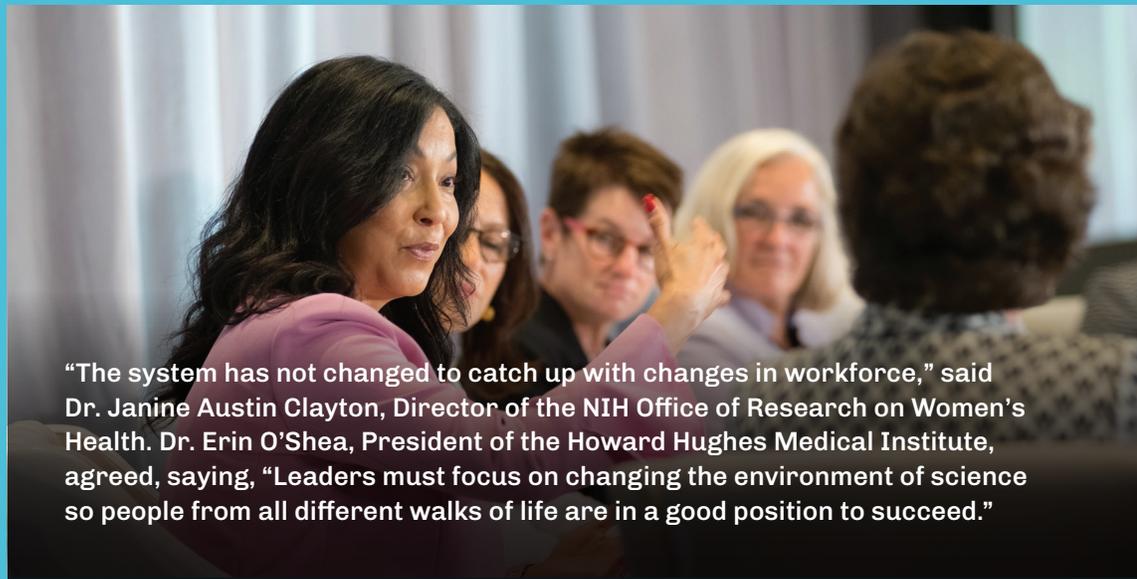


Parul Patel, Senior Director, Federal Government Affairs and Policy, Horizon Therapeutics, welcomed attendees to the breakfast. “We believe that science and compassion must work together to transform lives,” he said.

PANEL 1 Women Researchers Leading Discovery



Moderator and Research!America Board Member Lucinda Maine, PhD, RPh, Executive Vice President & CEO, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy led a frank and heartfelt discussion as the panelists shared personal insights about challenges facing women researchers.



“The system has not changed to catch up with changes in workforce,” said Dr. Janine Austin Clayton, Director of the NIH Office of Research on Women’s Health. Dr. Erin O’Shea, President of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, agreed, saying, “Leaders must focus on changing the environment of science so people from all different walks of life are in a good position to succeed.”



Gwen Nichols, MD, Chief Medical Officer, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, emphasized that changes that support women will “help everyone have a good family life and a good personal life.”

PANEL 2 Collaboration is Key: Exploring the evolving role of cross-sector partnerships as a catalyst to lifesaving progress



Rick Bright, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Director of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and Melinda Richter, Global Head of Johnson & Johnson Innovation, JLABS, discussed the ways in which public-private partnerships can drive new cures for patients.



The second panel, moderated by Bloomberg's Jeannie Baumann, emphasized the importance of cross-sector understanding and leadership for successful partnerships.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Luncheon keynote speaker Mikael Dolsten, MD, PhD, Chief Scientific Officer and President, Worldwide Research, Development and Medical, Pfizer, delivered remarks emphasizing the importance of vaccines in preventing deaths, saying "vaccines are often called the greatest public health intervention of all time." He highlighted the critical nature of vaccine denial and alignment of public health priorities to make sure we have the vaccines needed to save lives.

PANEL 3 Then, Now, Imagine

Steve Clemons, editor at large of *The Hill*, moderated this panel, inspired by Research!America's 30th anniversary. Looking at challenges, successes, and at hopes for the future, the panelists discussed the potential of scientific breakthroughs, patient engagement efforts, and the importance of keeping the public informed.



Tracey Brown, CEO of the American Diabetes Association, pointed out that not enough people see a connection between science and their own needs and value systems. She shared how technology that enables personal involvement, such as health apps, can improve patient efficacy.



PANEL 4 Leveraging Data to Accelerate Medical Progress



Research!America Senior Advisor Jenny Luray huddled with the panelists as they prepared to go on stage.

The fourth panel discussed the challenges and potential uses of real-world data. Moderated by Research!America Senior Advisor Jenny Luray, the panel explored issues of data security, data ownership, and the importance of connecting data across platforms and networks. PCORI Executive Director Dr. Joe Selby stated, “Real world data can lead to real-world clinical trials and make them more efficient, and make the results more generalizable.”



National Health Council Executive Vice President Eleanor Perfetto, PhD, MS emphasized the importance of patient access to their own data.



CLOSING REMARKS



The day concluded with remarks from FDA Acting Commissioner Ned Sharpless, MD. Trained as an oncologist, Dr. Sharpless spoke frankly about the tragedy of losing his father to melanoma, just a year before treatments for this form of cancer came to the market. He said, “Melanoma is an example of the incredible progress that has been made in cancer treatments.” He also brought the focus back to data and how to make the most of the incredible investments being made to make a difference in the lives of patients. Quality data, he said, is critical to our hope for the future. “By gathering better quality data we can more effectively make scientific progress, find answers, help more people,” he said.