

ANNUAL REPORT

**2023**

# Advocating for Science, Medical, and Public Health Progress



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

# Dear Advocate,

Our future as a nation and global community demands bold investment in science, technology, and public health, and our job as advocates is to make that case. Throughout 2023, with the great strength of our 300+ member organizations, the Research!America alliance stood together to make the case to meet health threats with robust and unrelenting advocacy for research investment.

Working together in 2023, we made progress on multiple fronts, including increased funding for federal research agencies; the confirmation of a new NIH director; launch of the Coalition for Trust in Health and Science; participated in dozens of Capitol Hill and Executive Branch meetings on issues ranging from protecting technology transfer to addressing the “valley of death” in the R&D arena to fostering global research partnerships; the release of the “State of Science in America” report from the Science and Technology Action Committee (STAC); and creation of a comprehensive database of training for scientists in public engagement.

We kept a pulse on important issues affecting communities nationwide by commissioning public opinion polls, including on maternal health and mortality, clinical trials and clinical research, and our annual national omnibus survey highlighting attitudes toward trust in science, global competitiveness, support for research, and much more.

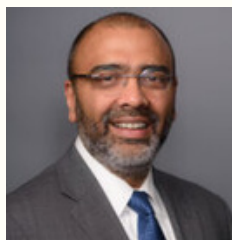
As advocates for research, we play a pivotal role in shaping a future that transcends the limitations of today, pursuing the boundless progress in medical and health research, and science and technology writ large, made capable by the dedication of both public and private sectors. In this spirit, let us forge ahead, fueled by our collective imagination, and chart a course toward a brighter, more secure, healthier, more prosperous and more promising tomorrow.

With gratitude,



**Mary Woolley**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Research!America

*Mary Woolley*



**Sudip S. Parikh, PhD**  
Research!America Chair  
Chief Executive Officer, American  
Association for the Advancement  
of Science; Executive Publisher,  
Science Family of Journals

*SR*

# Policy Highlights

The great strength of Research!America is our 300+ member organizations and you – the individuals who are part of those organizations. Together, we help ensure a future in which our most pressing health challenges are met with robust research investment and resolve. With you, we will continue to push the pace of medical and public health progress to deliver better health for all. You brought about change in 2023. Together, we worked to:



Help break the logjam preventing Senate confirmation of a new NIH director resulting in the confirmation and swearing-in of Dr. Monica Bertagnoli.

Boost funding in fiscal year 2023 for federal research agencies, including a \$2.5 billion increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and a \$1 billion increase for the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Foster international research partnerships and pandemic preparedness funding in support of U.S. and global health, security, and prosperity.

**42**

CONGRESSIONAL  
MEETINGS

**22**

MEETINGS WITH  
BIDEN OFFICIALS  
& AGENCY  
OFFICIALS

**2,000**

MEDIA  
MENTIONS

**60**

NATIONAL  
FORUM  
SPEAKERS

**53**

ALLIANCE  
DISCUSSIONS

# Advocacy Awards

Our 2023 Advocacy Awards celebrated 13 honorees for contributions to medical and public health research and for leadership in advocacy including:



**Edwin C. Whitehead Award for  
Medical Research Advocacy**  
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
U.S. Senator (D-NY)



**Edwin C. Whitehead Award for  
Medical Research Advocacy**  
The Honorable Todd Young  
U.S. Senator (R-IN)



**John Edward Porter Legacy Award,**  
*generously supported by Ann Lurie*  
Lawrence A. Tabak, DDS, PhD  
Performing the Duties of the Director of NIH



**Geoffrey Beene Foundation  
Builders of Science Award**  
Helene Gayle, MD, MPH  
President of Spelman College



**Herbert Pardes Family Award for National  
Leadership in Advocacy for Research**  
Pamela B. Davis, MD, PhD  
Arline H. & Curtis F. Garvin Research  
Professor; Professor, Center for Community  
Health Integration, Case Western Reserve  
University School of Medicine



**Gordon and Llura Gund  
Leadership Award**  
Heywood Fralin  
Chairman, Retirement  
Unlimited, Inc.



**Gordon and Llura Gund  
Leadership Award**  
Michael J. Friedlander, PhD  
Vice President, Health Sciences and  
Technology, Virginia Tech;  
Executive Director, Fralin Biomedical  
Research Institute at VTC



**Paul G. Rogers Distinguished  
Organization Advocacy Award**  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation  
for Parkinson's Research



**Isadore Rosenfeld Award for  
Impact on Public Opinion**  
Hiding in Plain Sight: Youth Mental Illness  
A film by Ken Burns, Erik Ewers,  
Christopher Loren Ewers, Julie Coffman,  
and David Blistein

# Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Awards, generously supported by Johnson & Johnson



## Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Award

Margaret A. Hamburg, MD  
Former FDA Commissioner; President, InterAcademy  
Partnership for Science, Health and Policy;  
Academies of Science and Health



## Building the Foundation Award

James E. Crowe Jr., MD  
Director, Vaccine Center; Ann Scott Carell Prof. of  
Pediatrics, Pathology, Microbiology & Immunology,  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center



Meeting the Moment for  
Public Health Award  
Hip Hop Public Health

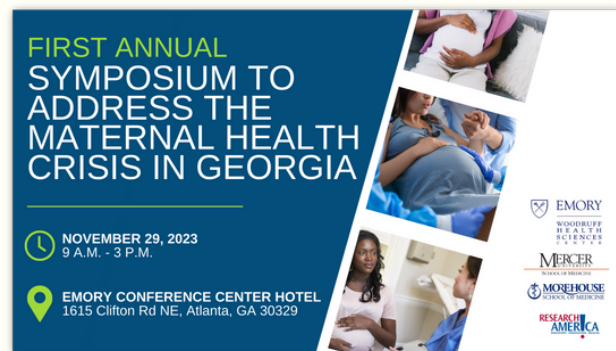


Rapid Translation Award  
Noubar Afeyan, PhD  
Founder and CEO, Flagship Pioneering



# Surveys

Our America Speaks!: Poll Data Summary, Volume 23, released in April, serves as a resource for elected officials, Congressional staff, and advocates. We continued to assess public sentiment about science and research through three surveys this year:



- Our annual survey in January 2023 found that nearly six in 10 Americans are in favor of greater taxpayer support of science and technology.
- In partnership with Emory University, we surveyed Georgians' views on maternal health and mortality and released results at a symposium in Atlanta. Results show that nine in 10 Georgians agree research is important to understand and address maternal mortality risks.
- In partnership with the Association of Clinical Research Organizations, we commissioned a national survey on clinical trials and clinical research. An actionable takeaway: A large majority (87%) of respondents agree that health care professionals should discuss clinical trials with patients as part of their standard of care.

# Engaging with Experts and Stakeholders



## National Health Research Forum

The 2023 National Health Research Forum hosted thought-provoking discussions on topics such as the Future of Research and Innovation, Reimagining Clinical Trials, Public-Private Partnerships, CHIPS and Science, AI, Combatting Misinformation, Bolstering our Research Workforce, and Patient Empowerment.

- 60 speakers, including 16 high-ranking government officials.
- Speakers included Former Acting NIH Director Larry Tabak, DDS, PhD; NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan, PhD; FDA Commissioner Robert Califf, MD; AHRQ Director Robert Valdez, PhD, MHSA; Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Director Diana Bianchi, MD; PCORI Executive Director Nakela Cook, MD, MPH; Sanofi Chief Medical Officer Dietmar Berger, MD, PhD; Arati Prabhakar, PhD, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and UsAgainstAlzheimer's COO Russ Paulsen, MA.

Research!America thanks Sanofi and many other sponsors for their support of the National Health Research Forum.

## 2023 Discovery | Innovation | Health Prize

Research!America presented the first-ever \$200,000 Discovery | Innovation | Health Prize, generously supported by Pfizer, to Nevan Krogan, PhD, director of UCSF's Quantitative Biosciences Institute (QBI), for his trailblazing efforts to address future pandemic threats.



## Alliance Discussions

To help keep our members informed in real time of research progress and the policy landscape, we held 53 alliance discussions. Exceptional leaders from government, academia, and industry discussed timely topics, such as FDA regulation, advances in mental health research, health-focused artificial intelligence, and antimicrobial resistance.





# Empowering Early Career Scientists and Building Science Trust

## Civic Engagement Microgrant Program

2023 was our 6th year empowering early-career science civic engagement through competitive microgrants with support from the Rita Allen Foundation. The program was highly competitive with 20 grants funded out of 68 applications from across the country.



The Black Scientist Collective

## Visualizing the Landscape of Training Initiatives for Scientists

In partnership with the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation, we released a report, “Visualizing the Landscape of Training Initiatives for Scientists in Public Engagement in the United States,” which offers a detailed overview of the scope of training initiatives for scientists in public engagement. Notably, the report includes an interactive dashboard that provides a dynamic window into these important and developing programs across the U.S.

We also helped to launch and lead the Coalition for Trust in Health and Science which comprises 90 organizations (and growing) and aims for all people to have equitable access to accurate, understandable, and relevant information to make personally appropriate health choices and decisions.

## Early Career Summit

We held our 3rd Early Career Summit in June for early career scientists to learn more about civic engagement, science communication, science policy, and career development. To date, there have been 750 registrants with 29% identifying as first generation to attend college.

### Sponsors



Johnson & Johnson



# Campaigns & Advocacy

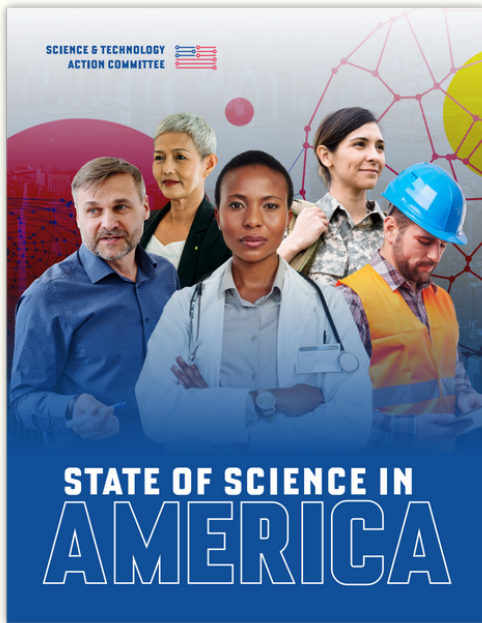
## Public Health Thank You Day

For 18 years, Research!America has organized an effort to say “thank you” to our public health workforce the Monday before Thanksgiving.



- We had ~1,000 tweets and involvement by more than 60 state and local health departments from 27 different states.
- On November 20, the bipartisan co-chairs of the Congressional Public Health Caucus, co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 78 recognizing Public Health Thank You Day.

# Science and Technology Action Committee



The Science and Technology Action Committee (STAC), an initiative that brings together non-profit, academic, foundation and corporate leaders with Research!America in a leading role, continued to make the case for a far bolder approach to bolstering our nation's R&D capacity.

STAC actively promoted the importance of funding science and technology throughout the year, culminating in the December release of the State of Science in America report, which incorporates the input of a broad range of scientific experts and sectors of the workforce on the importance of developing and funding a national strategy on science and technology. The report features findings from a national survey of Americans working in five sectors, revealing considerable concern about the loss of U.S. leadership in R&D, strong bipartisan support for greater government investment, and widespread acknowledgement of the critical role science and technology play in our society.

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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 the [Research!America website](#).