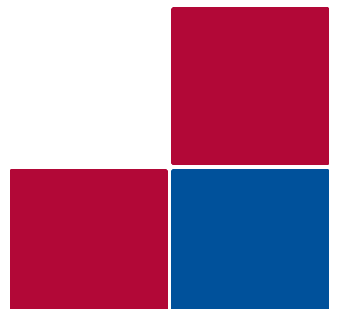


ANNUAL REPORT



ADVANCING MEDICAL RESEARCH,
SCIENCE, AND TECHNOLOGY



Dear Advocate,

Reflecting on 2025 reminds us that while it was a turbulent year for medical and health research, our commitment to advocating for science never wavered. From pushing back against funding threats to elevating researchers' voices and equipping advocates, we kept science visible, not only in administration and congressional offices in Washington, D.C., but importantly, in front of the public.

Despite the long, hard-won process to pass nearly all the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) funding bills, important avenues of federally funded research are still being curtailed, and health and research agencies are still at risk of being underfunded. By working together and speaking out on Capitol Hill, we encouraged congressional champions to stand up for research in FY26, and with your continued advocacy, we will get our nation's commitment to science back on track.

Like so many of you, our pace last year was relentless: 54 congressional meetings, 36 alliance discussions, 31 new policy and advocacy resources, 11 letters to the administration, and much more. We also led a public education and awareness campaign, Americans for Medical Research, with the support of two dozen science societies and several foundations. Also, like you, we aren't slowing down because we know federal research funding has broad public support.

In fact, our latest national survey shows a striking 92% of Americans across the political spectrum support basic scientific research, and nearly 7 in 10 say Congress should invest more taxpayer dollars to advance science and technology.

Our work is possible because of our 300+ member organizations and the committed individuals like you who are part of these organizations. We truly appreciate your leadership and partnership to spur faster medical progress.

In the pages that follow, you will see highlights from our work in 2025. Moving forward together, we will continue to respond to the unprecedented challenges before us while relentlessly promoting a vision of the U.S. that achieves better health for all.

With gratitude,



Mary Woolley
Chief Executive Officer
Research!America

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SR".

Policy Highlights

In 2025, we were pleased to increase our focus on in-person congressional briefings and alliance member-only updates and strategy sessions. Our Exploring the Capability and Potential of Genetically Targeted Technology briefing discussed the science behind genetically targeted technology and the extraordinary capability it holds to address urgent unmet medical needs. Our 2025 programming featured expert panelists, remarks from Congressional champions, as well as new infographic resources for Congressional staff and advocates.

Throughout the year, the Research!America alliance held 36 meetings with federal officials to make the case for funding and policies that strengthen and elevate the priority of public and private sector-driven R&D. We also continued to convene our informal ARPA-H coalition to share information and work to ensure ARPA-H gains a solid footing without supplanting other NIH funding streams.

Our alliance played an active role in preventing the imposition of a 15% cap on many federal science agencies. For NIH alone, this would have drained an estimated \$4 billion from U.S.-led research. This was accomplished through educating policymakers on what "forward" or "multi-year" funding is, and the harmful effects that would result from an abrupt shift in its use for NIH grants. We also collaborated with NIH to lessen the negative impact of the transition to a "linked grants" system for foreign subgrantees, helping secure alternatives to grant terminations for research involving human subjects.

54

CONGRESSIONAL MEETINGS

52

LETTERS SENT TO CONGRESS

36

ALLIANCE DISCUSSIONS

31

NEW POLICY & ADVOCACY RESOURCES

11

LETTERS SENT TO THE ADMINISTRATION

As mentioned above, Research!America hosted a standing-room-only Hill briefing on the critical role of genetically targeted technologies, featuring Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-01) and leaders from academia, industry, and patient advocacy organizations.



Advocacy Awards

Our 2025 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 Zoe Lofgren
U.S. Representative (D-CA-18)



Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy

The Honorable Frank Lucas
U.S. Representative (R-OK-3)



John Edward Porter Legacy Award, generously supported by Ann Lurie

Carolyn Clancy, MD
Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Discovery, Education and Affiliate Networks, Veterans Health Administration



Builders of Science Award

Gary H. Gibbons, MD
Director, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute



Herbert Pardes Family Award for National Leadership in Advocacy for Research

Barbara E. Bierer, MD
Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Faculty Director of the Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center of Brigham and Women's Hospital



Gordon and Llura Gund Leadership Award

Gary K. Michelson, MD
Founder, President, and Co-chair, Michelson Philanthropies & Michelson Medical Research Foundation



Paul G. Rogers Distinguished Organization Advocacy Award
Muscular Dystrophy Association



Isadore Rosenfeld Award for Impact on Public Opinion
Elizabeth Cohen
Freelance Health Reporter

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



Building the Foundation Award

Kizzmekia S. Corbett-Helaire, PhD
Assistant Professor, of Immunology
and Infectious Diseases; Harvard T.H.
Chan School of Public Health;
Freeman Hrabowski Scholar, Howard
Hughes Medical Institute



Building the Foundation Award

Barney S. Graham, MD, PhD
Director of the David Satcher Global
Health Equity Institute, Professor Of
Medicine and Microbiology,
Biochemistry, & Immunology,
Morehouse School of Medicine



Meeting the Moment for Public Health Award

Monica M. Bertagnoli, MD
Director, National
Institutes of Health, 2023-
2025



Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Award

Alfred Sommer, MD, MHS
Dean Emeritus, University Distinguished
Service Professor, Professor Emeritus,
Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg
School of Public Health



Rapid Translation Award

Drugs for Neglected
Diseases initiative (DNDi)



Surveys

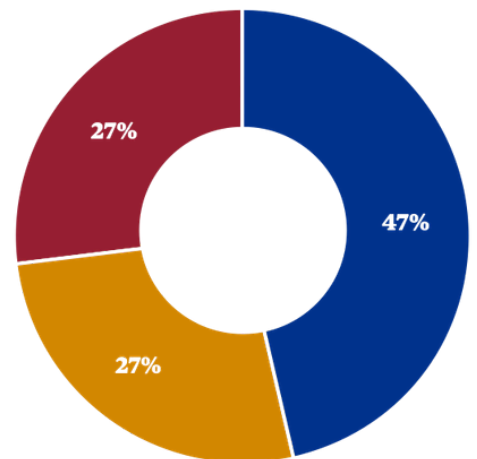
Our [America Speaks: Poll Data Summary, Volume 25](#) summarized data from our [January 2025](#) annual survey, which gauged public sentiment about Americans' perspectives on medical and health research.

Additionally, we commissioned a [Gen Z and Science Project](#), which used digital analysis, focus groups, and survey research to investigate which messages, types of information, and means of communication are most effective in bolstering young people's engagement with science.



Only Half Are Aware S&T Research Is Conducted in Every State

To the best of your knowledge, would you say that science and technology research in the U.S. is conducted in all 50 states?



Engaging with Experts and Stakeholders



National Health Research Forum

The 2025 National Health Research Forum took place virtually on Sept. 3 and 10, and in-person at AAAS on Sept. 17. At the event, we introduced a dynamic new format that provided actionable insights and fostered collaborative discussions into critical health and scientific challenges facing the country as we explored the theme: The Pulse of Progress.

Some highlights include:

- Nearly 2,000 registrants across virtual and in-person programming.
- A keynote address by NIH Director Dr. Jay Bhattacharya.
- A newly-debuted early career civic science poster session featuring recipients of Research!America's Civic Engagement Microgrant Program and Public Engagement Content Awards.
- Cross-sector strategy sessions exploring the theme of effective advocacy for the entire R&D ecosystem.
- The 2025 Forum received national media coverage and was featured in Politico and Bloomberg.

Empowering Early Career Scientists

Civic Science Programs

Early career scientists are increasingly motivated to engage with their local communities and our Civic Engagement Microgrant Program has been part of this important trend thanks to foundation support. In 2025, we provided 24 microgrants to early career STEM groups across the country. In November, we launched the 2025-2026 cycle and received a record-setting 132 applications, a 22% increase over last year.

We also completed a successful first year of a new civic science opportunity – the Public Engagement Content Awards, focused on the creation of open-access curricula in skills needed for effective public engagement. We provided 11 awards of up to \$5,000 each and released the innovative training content on our website.



Early Career Scientists at the National Health Research Forum

At the 2025 National Health Research Forum, we were excited to present dedicated early career programming designed to equip the next generation of leaders in health research with the skills needed to navigate a challenging environment. First, we hosted a virtual career tour and resume workshop. Additionally, we invited several early career researchers who were recipients of Research!America's Civic Engagement Microgrant Program and Public Engagement Content Awards to present their research to Forum attendees.

Americans for Medical Research Campaign

In light of unprecedented challenges to federally funded medical research in 2025, Research!America, with support from more than 20 scientific societies and foundations, led a public education and awareness advertising campaign: Americans for Medical Research. Launched in September, the campaign was active in the Washington, D.C., "Beltway" region and in four states: Kansas, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Utah.

The campaign generated more than 6 million views of its ads and 340,000 visits to the website. We worked with our science society partners who identified dozens of stories from patients, researchers, and clinicians affected by disruptions and cuts to NIH. Some stories even made their way into op-eds published in newspapers around the country, while others drew attention to the website.



Communications Advocacy Training

October 28th
Noon - 1 PM ET



Science and Technology Action Committee

STAC continued to bring together 25 nonprofit, academic, foundation, and corporate leaders to dramatically strengthen U.S. science and technology. In February 2025, STAC released the Vision for American Science and Technology (VAST) to unite the community in making the case for a clear vision and actionable policy recommendations for a supercharged American scientific enterprise. The launch event, which won the 2025 PR Daily Award for Best Public Affairs Campaign, was preceded by an exclusive in Axios, and an op-ed in Science, along with extensive outreach to Congress and other stakeholders. STAC also worked closely with other stakeholders to push back against drastic proposed cuts in FY26 funding for federal science programs. Both the House and Senate appropriations bills rejected the major funding cuts.

Throughout 2025, STAC (co-chairs and staff) conducted the following outreach in an effort to educate policymakers on the need for strong federal S&T investment:



- 15 meetings with members of Congress, Committees, and Commissions (such as the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission) on both sides of the aisle.
- Significant outreach to congressional staff, particularly appropriators.
- Testimony from STAC co-chair Sudip Parikh to appropriators in support of strong FY26 funding for federal science agencies.
- Four letters to appropriators in Congress.
- A letter to President Trump, urging his administration to adopt the recommendations in the National Security Commission on Emerging Biotechnology's final report (April 2025).
- Support for Dario Gil's nomination to be Under Secretary for Science at the Department of Energy.
- Response to the OSTP's November 2025 RFI requesting input on federal S&T policy.

Outreach & Visibility

Weekly Letter

Mary Woolley's Weekly Letter continues to be a mainstay within the research advocacy community. It now has a circulation of more than 21,000, up from just over 14,000 at the beginning of January 2025, demonstrating the need for in-the-moment information.

In the Media

Research!America had a strong year of press visibility. In 2025, we appeared in more than 1,945 news articles and stories. Of note is our coverage in The New York Times, CNN, The Associated Press, The Boston Globe, Politico, Bloomberg Government, STAT+, The Lancet, Issues in Science and Technology, Roll Call, The Hill, and Axios.

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Facebook: [@ResearchAmerica.org](#)



YouTube: [@ResearchAmerica](#)

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Cynthia Zagieboylo

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 United States Senator (2011-2023);
 United States Representative (1997-
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Hon. Bart Gordon
 United States Representative (1985-
 2011)

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 and Medicaid Services (2004-2006);
 Commissioner, Food and Drug
 Administration (2002-2004)

Financial Information

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