

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

MEETING

THE MOMENT

DEAR ADVOCATE,

The theme of this report, “Meeting the Moment,” speaks to the vigorous efforts across our entire community — the U.S. R&D ecosystem — to combat COVID-19. As we look back at 2020, we are filled with awe and appreciation for the contributions made by our alliance member organizations and partners as you worked tirelessly to respond to the largest public health threat in a century.

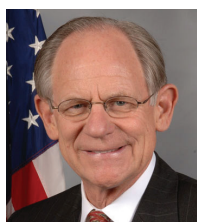
Together, we supported the R&D enterprise throughout the pandemic and looked ahead to post-pandemic needs by working to maximize FY21 budgets and securing increased funding for NIH, FDA, CDC, and NSF, among other accomplishments. Leading up to the 2020 presidential election, our members and partners joined together to support a non-partisan candidate engagement initiative highlighting the importance of research and innovation to our nation’s future.

Whether you participated in one of our weekly alliance member meetings, topical webinars, or virtual roundtable discussions, responded to an action alert by reaching out to your members of Congress, used our survey data or fact sheets in your advocacy, read or authored a blog, joined the National Health Research Forum, participated as an early career scientist in the Flash Talks competition or the Microgrant program, or read and shared our weekly letter, your engagement in Research!America and our common cause was deeply appreciated.

Meeting the Moment is also about the future, and we must always have an eye to the future. We are working to restore research disrupted by the pandemic and to assure that our nation’s research enterprise has the robust resources necessary to drive medical progress. We are partnering with others to address the long-standing racial and ethnic disparities in health and healthcare, beginning with research itself: the lack of diversity in clinical trials and in the R&D workforce. We are standing shoulder to shoulder with the broad scientific community to bolster a policy agenda in which public and private sector medical innovation thrives, the nation’s public health capacity flourishes, opportunities abound for students at every age and in every community to develop into scientists, and our global R&D leadership is strengthened.

Your continued partnership with Research!America fuels and guides us. Together we will work to prevent the devastation of a next pandemic, find solutions to what ails us, and assure a bright future for our nation.

With gratitude,



The Honorable Michael N. Castle
*Chair, Research!America
Board of Directors (2017-2021)*

A handwritten signature of Michael N. Castle in black ink.



Mary Woolley
*President and CEO,
Research!America*

A handwritten signature of Mary Woolley in black ink.

73,000

emails sent by members and allies to
Congress; 60% more than in 2019

30

new fact sheets

1,250

media mentions

38

virtual alliance member gatherings with
over 50 federal officials and others leading
the fight against COVID-19

29 mil

impressions on Twitter
for Public Health Thank
You Day

Advocacy in Action

WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER

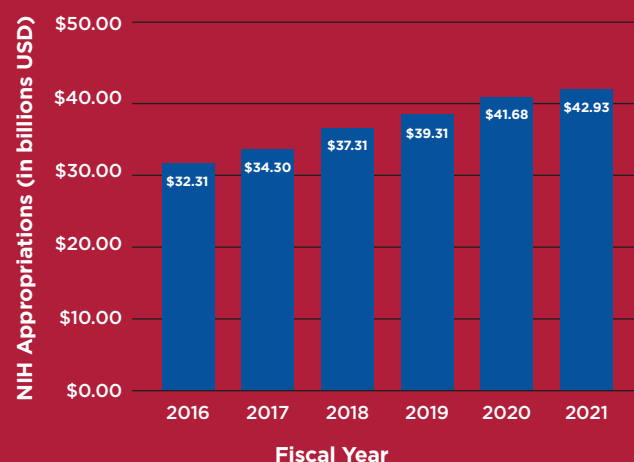
ADVOCACY TOGETHER

The Research!America advocacy alliance played a pivotal role in supporting the research enterprise throughout the pandemic while looking ahead to post-pandemic needs. We increased our outreach efforts to engage members in advocacy through email and social media, resulting in a 60% increase in letters and messages to Congress.

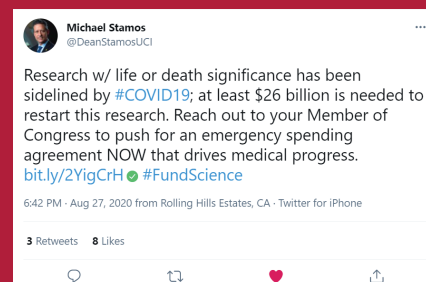
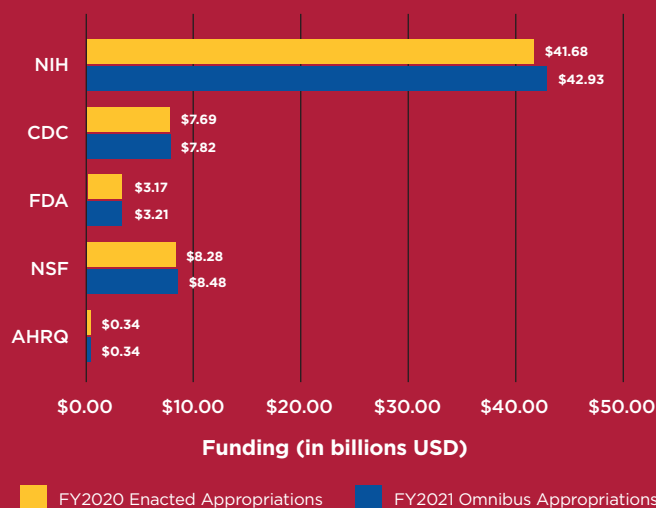
Objectives we advanced together:

- Ensuring the resources needed to propel COVID-19 R&D and bolster the public health response to the pandemic.
- Maximizing FY20 budgets. Despite a stifling budget cap, securing increased funding for NIH, FDA, CDC, and NSF, and preventing cuts to the at-risk AHRQ budget.
- Promoting technological transfer, empowered by the landmark Bayh-Dole Act, as critical to ensuring basic research is translated into medical advances.
- Raising awareness about the critical roles both the public and private sectors play in fueling medical and public health progress, as exemplified by the public-private partnerships working to overcome COVID-19.
- Standing in vocal opposition to sidelining science in federal decision-making and compromising the international diversity of STEM students at U.S. universities.

Our alliance had tangible impact. Working closely with partners across the R&D and public health ecosystem, **we boosted financial support of NIH:**



We were front and center in assuring supplemental funding for COVID-19 R&D and public health through four different supplemental funding bills, **totaling almost \$22B:**



Meeting the Moment

ALLIANCE MEMBER MEETINGS AND WEBINARS

Research!America responded quickly to the rapidly changing landscape caused by the pandemic with a pivot to weekly virtual member meetings to replace monthly conference calls. From March to December 2020, we hosted 38 meetings with over 56 guest speakers and over 4,600 registrations. [Access meeting recaps and recordings here.](#)



We need to come together against this common enemy of the virus... we need to work together, and getting vaccinated is going to be what gets us there."

PETER MARKS, MD, PHD,
DIRECTOR OF CENTER
FOR BIOLOGICS
EVALUATION AND
RESEARCH (CBER), FDA
- DECEMBER 14, 2020



Investing in health is an investment in a better future; therefore, the return on that investment is worth it, and we will be better off, and a healthier society for it."

THE HONORABLE LOUIS W.
SULLIVAN, FORMER SECRETARY,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND
CHAIRMAN, SULLIVAN ALLIANCE
TO TRANSFORM THE HEALTH
PROFESSIONS - MAY 11, 2020



I was in my home office, which like many of us, was my bedroom, in my apartment in New York City. All I heard all day long was sirens. There were ambulances going up and down Second Avenue. I took out my medical school oath that I took 35 years ago, and the words in it really resonated. It said, 'respond always in an emergency.' "

JUDITH A. SALERNO, MD,
MS, PRESIDENT OF THE
NEW YORK ACADEMY OF
MEDICINE - JULY 23, 2020

PUBLIC WEBINARS

Together with our partners, Research!America produced virtual panel discussions and interactive roundtables open to our members as well as broader audiences with a total of over 2,000 registrants. These events focused on COVID-19 treatments, the effects of the pandemic on non-COVID research, RNAi technology, novel financing for high-risk, high-reward research, impact on young investigators of proposed Administration actions affecting student visas, and the implications of the November election.



This is the time we need the most openness, the most transparency, and the fastest track to dissemination and publication we can possibly sustain with good quality."

JULIE GERBERDING, MD, MPH, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
AND CHIEF PATIENT OFFICER AT MERCK & CO., INC

UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE OF COVID-19
VACCINE AND TREATMENT R&D - APRIL 22, 2020



Science has always been on the ballot, ask Galileo."

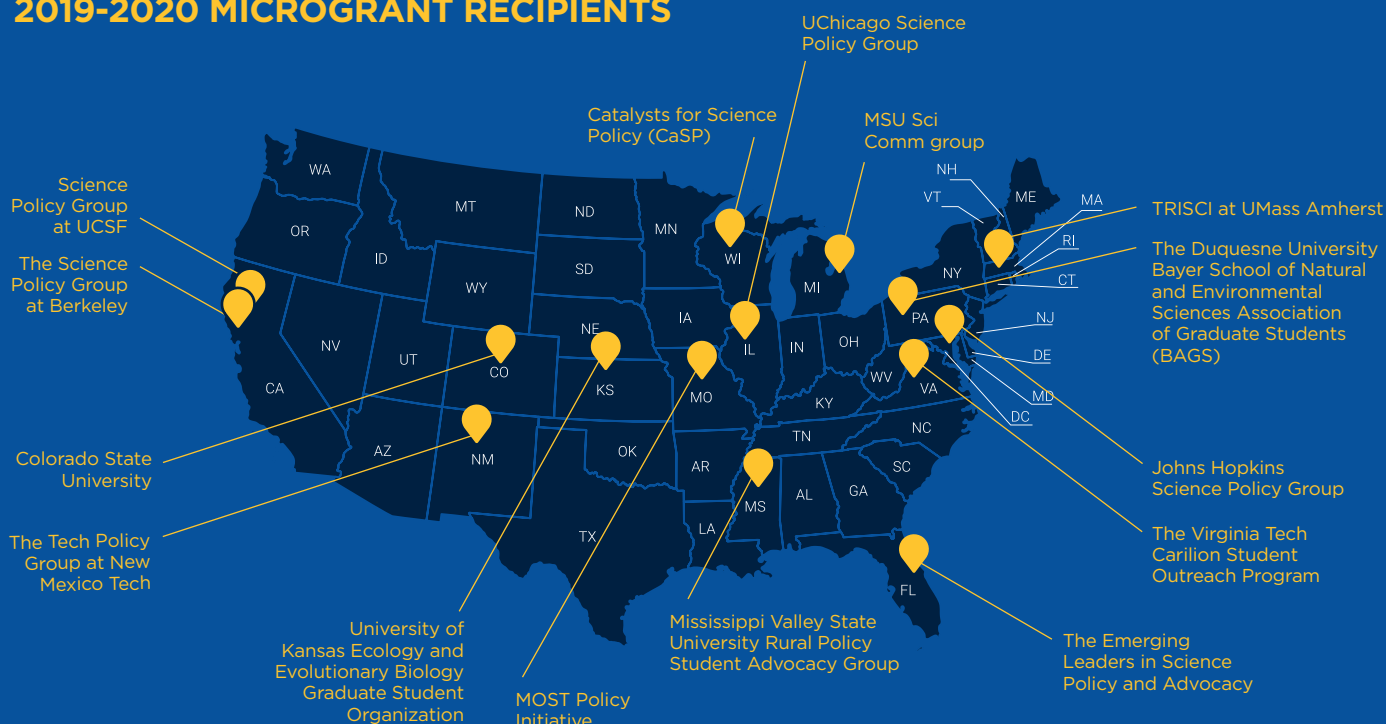
FRANK SESNO, DIRECTOR OF
STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL
OF MEDIA AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

2020 POST-ELECTION
BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 10, 2020

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Graduate student and postdoc-led science policy groups from across the country competed to win funding from the second year of the Research!America microgrant awards. With support from the Rita Allen Foundation, 15 groups were selected to build projects to engage with local public officials and community leaders around science policy issues as diverse as cybersecurity, water pollution, and scientific ethics.

2019-2020 MICROGRANT RECIPIENTS



Several awardees hosted events prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students at Colorado State University held a poster session and networking mixer at a local brewery connecting early career scientists with Fort Collins city council members around key community priorities. A forum hosted by the University of Chicago Science Policy Group explored local policies to protect water quality in the Great Lakes. In the wake of the pandemic, other groups pivoted to virtual events, holding Zoom webinars and roundtables to keep their civic engagement work progressing along.

In late 2020, Research!America began recruiting a third round of micrograntees. Over 50 applications were submitted, and again with support from the Rita Allen Foundation, 19 groups were selected. We are excited to see what these students accomplish.

“

Everyone I talked with said they...learned something new or made a new connection. It was wonderful to see so much positive engagement by the local government leaders...”

JAKOB LINDAAS, PHD CANDIDATE, PROGRAM ORGANIZER, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



Meeting the Moment

NATIONAL HEALTH RESEARCH FORUM

For more than 20 years, the National Health Research Forum has gathered top federal officials, leadership from across our broad membership, and distinguished national media to take an unvarnished look at issues that are vital to the well-being of our nation, our economy, and most importantly, patients.

In 2020, via a virtual platform, more than 90 speakers, including high-ranking government officials, award-winning researchers, patient champions, and industry leaders joined us over three days with expert insight and Q&A opportunities for participants. The event attracted 1,600 registrants across the country and generated extensive media coverage, including live coverage from CNN and CSPAN.



PBS NewsHour's Judy Woodruff with Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director, NIAID



The panel on Public Health Preparedness explored lessons earned from the U.S. experience with COVID-19 and how to apply these lessons to outpace future threats.



Clinical trials should not be designed based on census data. They should be designed based on the prevalence of diseases in the communities most impacted. That is obviously not happening.”

VIVIAN PINN, MD, SENIOR SCIENTIST EMERITA, FOGARTY INTERNATIONAL CENTER



We must communicate, communicate, communicate — but in one voice. Leadership at all levels need to display unwavering enthusiasm for science and communicate the importance of scientific advancement like was done for [the response to] Sputnik.”

SUSAN HOCKFIELD, PHD, PRESIDENT EMERITA AND PROFESSOR OF NEUROSCIENCE, MIT



Deny the existence of systemic racism or COVID-19 and they'll both spread.”

KAFUI DZIRASA, MD, PHD, K. RANGA RAMA KRISHNAN ENDOWED ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AT DUKE UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER

Advocacy in Action

VOTE SCIENCE STRONG

Research!America's national candidate-engagement initiative, Vote Science Strong, showcased the importance of research and innovation during the lead-up to the 2020 elections. With support and participation from dozens of member and partner organizations, we saw our collective efforts reflected as the prioritization of and support for investment in research was broadly discussed through the election season.

Science keeps us safe and secure.
What will your candidates do to
advance scientific research?
#VoteScienceStrong

RESEARCH!
AMERICA



Advocacy in Action

PUBLIC HEALTH THANK YOU DAY

For 15 years, Research!America has organized the effort to say “thank you” to our public health workforce the Monday before Thanksgiving. In 2020, as this impossibly stretched group of professionals grappled with the most dangerous pandemic in a century, our gratitude was deeper than ever. Along with our partners, members, and the entire public health community, we celebrated these hardworking individuals as they worked to fight COVID-19 and advance public health 24/7. We and our partners used the event to heighten messages around masking and social distancing.



Dr. Patrizia Cavazzoni
@FDACDERDirector

Public health and safety is FDA's highest priority. Today we express our utmost appreciation for the many highly-trained public health workers who have been asked to do more under strenuous circumstances to keep Americans safe during this pandemic.

We thank you. #PHTYD



Nearly
30
federal officials
and agencies
participating

20+
participating
Research!America
alliance members

69
media
outlets

Nearly
30 mil
impressions
on Twitter

800
original tweets
including from
influential
figures

2,124
unique
contributors

Over
15 mil
accounts
reached on
Twitter

Nearly
2,400
Facebook
accounts
reached

Advocacy in Action

KEEPING A FINGER ON THE PULSE OF PUBLIC OPINION

For three decades, Research!America has been commissioning surveys to keep a finger on the pulse of public opinion. Our surveys, with the support of partners including the American Medical Association, measure crucial topics such as public support for medical, health, and scientific research; Americans' priorities for political leaders; the importance of America's global leadership in health research; the visibility and invisibility of science; and related state-level issues. We also stay abreast of cutting-edge concerns such as vaccines, opioid and drug abuse, antimicrobial resistance, and climate change. This data is regularly used in research advocacy efforts with elected officials, press statements, social media, speeches and presentations, congressional testimony, and much more.

Research!America president and CEO Mary Woolley pivoted to delivering remarks and engaging with members and allies remotely after March 2020. She spoke with audiences at 14 different institutions, conferences, symposia, and events.

She also addressed the growing issue of trust in science, pointing out that trust in science is a nuanced issue. Scientists, along with doctors and nurses, still rank highly in terms of trust by the public; the most trusted messengers remain scientists and health professionals. It is more important than ever for researchers and scientists in all fields and all environments to advocate for the importance of research and a science strong future.

FOUR IN FIVE AMERICANS AGREE: IT'S TIME FOR AN URGENT REFOCUS ON SCIENCE

Which statement is closest to your view?

Statement A: The COVID-19 pandemic is a disruptive event and requires urgent refocusing of America's commitment to science. **Statement B:** Things will get back to normal soon; we don't need increased efforts in science.

78%

Statement A



13%

Statement B

8%

Not sure



It is more honest to frame the new, post-COVID-19 normal not as predictions, but as a series of choices. Fate will not create the new normal; choices will."

DONALD M. BERWICK, KBE, FORMER ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE AND MEDICAID SERVICES



46% of Americans

trust science more now than a year ago



37% of Americans

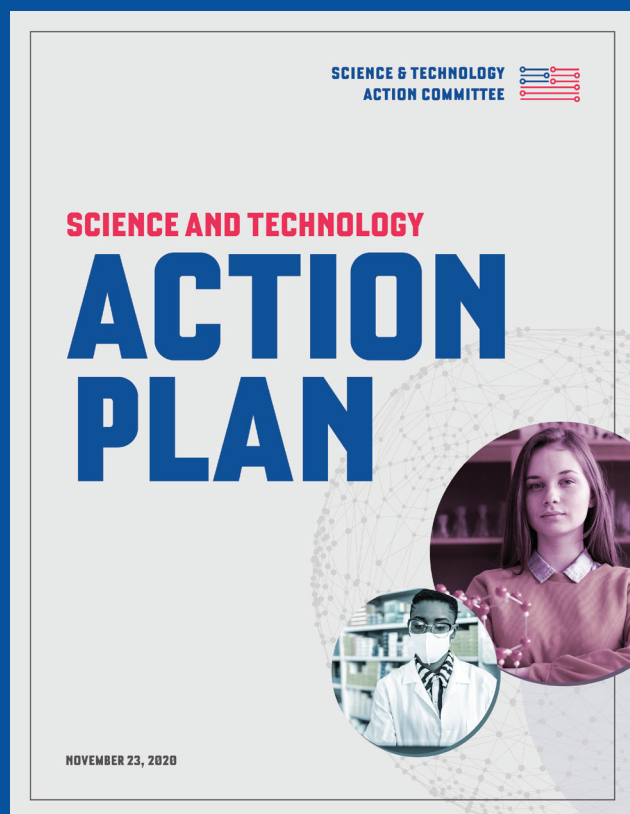
say there has been no change

Meeting the Moment

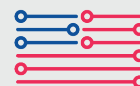
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ACTION COMMITTEE

The COVID-19 pandemic sharpened the focus on existential challenges spanning such wide-ranging areas as public health and healthcare, environment and climate change, food and water security, and energy production, utilization, and storage. Failure to address such challenges imperils our individual and collective well-being, economy, and national security. Research!America, with initial support from the Kavli Foundation and Bloomberg Philanthropies, followed by IBM, Simons Foundation International, and Schmidt Futures, joined together with leading researchers and scientists to assess the state of science in the United States. Upon looking at the most current research and public opinion data, the Science and Technology Action Committee assembled an [Action Plan](#) to reprioritize science and technology research, development, and education in the U.S. and committed to moving it forward in 2021.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ACTION COMMITTEE



Americans have long relied on S&T discoveries and advances that have driven our economy, assured national security, and improved lives nationally and globally. But the current challenges, including rising global competition, are certainly not the last we will face. We propose here three bold actions toward a renewed S&T commitment dedicated to surmounting overarching societal threats.”

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Hon. Michael N. Castle, Chair

Governor of Delaware
(1985-1992)
United States Representative
(1993-2011)

Mary Woolley, President

Chief Executive Officer
Research!America

E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Secretary

Dean; Executive Vice
President for Medical Affairs;
John Z. And Akiko Bowers
Distinguished Professor
University of Maryland
School of Medicine

Amy Comstock Rick, JD, Treasurer

President and Chief
Executive Officer
Food and Drug Law Institute

Mikael Dolsten, MD, PhD

Chief Scientific Officer and
President of Worldwide
Research, Development and
Medical
Pfizer Inc

Victor J. Dzau, MD

President
National Academy of
Medicine

Hon. Bart Gordon

Partner
K&L Gates LLP
United States Representative
(1985-2011)

William N. Hait, MD, PhD

Global Head
Johnson & Johnson Global
External Innovation

Mary J.C. Hendrix, PhD

President
Shepherd University

Hon. Rush D. Holt, PhD

United States Representative
(1999-2015)

Elizabeth Baker Keffer

Partner and Chief Network
Officer
BDT & Company

Debra R. Lappin, JD

Principal
Faegre Drinker Consulting

Alan I. Leshner, PhD

Chief Executive Officer
Emeritus
American Association for
the Advancement of Science

James L. Madara, MD

Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Vice President
American Medical
Association

Lucinda Maine, PhD, RPh

Executive Vice President &
Chief Executive Officer
American Association of
Colleges of Pharmacy

Mark McClellan, MD, PhD, MPA

Director, Robert J. Margolis
Center for Health Policy
Duke University
Former Administrator,
Centers for Medicare
and Medicaid Services
(2004-2006)
Former Commissioner, Food
and Drug Administration
(2002-2004)

Herbert Pardes, MD

Executive Vice Chairman,
Board of Trustees
NewYork-Presbyterian
Hospital

Sudip S. Parikh, PhD

CEO and Executive Publisher
of the Science Family of
Journals
American Association for
the Advancement of Science

Harold L. Paz, MD, MS

Executive Vice President and
Chancellor for Health Affairs
The Ohio State University

Guillermo J. Prado, PhD

Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs;
Dean, Graduate School;
Professor, Nursing and
Health Studies, Public Health
Sciences, and Psychology;
University of Miami

Derek K. Rapp

Managing Director
RiverVest Venture Partners

Gary M. Reedy

Chief Executive Officer
American Cancer Society

Laing Rogers

Community Leader

Larry J. Shapiro, MD

Chief Executive Officer
University Health Partners of
Hawai'i

Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN, FAAN

President & Chief Executive
Officer
American Association of
Colleges of Nursing

M. Roy Wilson, MD

President
Wayne State University

Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD

Professor Emeritus;
Vice Chancellor for Science
Policy and Strategy; Director,
UCSF Precision Medicine;
University of California, San
Francisco

Elias A. Zerhouni, MD

Former Director, National
Institutes of Health
(2002-2008)

BOARD MEMBERS

Tenley E. Albright, MD

Director
MIT Collaborative Initiatives

Georges C. Benjamin, MD

Executive Director
American Public Health
Association

Nancy Brown

Chief Executive Officer
American Heart Association

Susan Dentzer

Senior Policy Fellow,
Robert J. Margolis Center
for Health Policy
Duke University

IN MEMORIAM

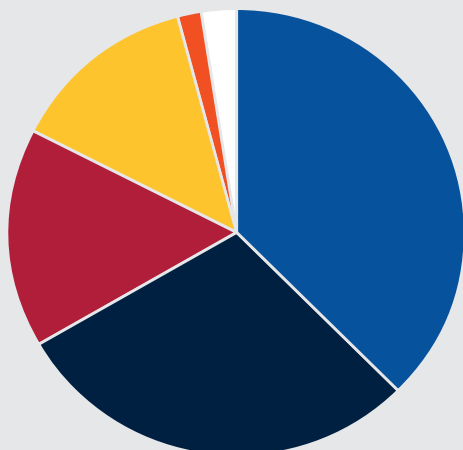
William Robert ("Bill") Brinkley, PhD (1936-2020) served as a Professor and Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at Baylor College of Medicine and was an integral force during the era of doubling NIH funding. He was the recipient of a Merit Award from the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, where he received continuous funding for more than 35 years for his research on cell division and genomic instability in tumor cells. He served as President of Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology from 1998-1999. He served on the Board of Directors of Research!America (1997-2010).

Jay Gershen, DDS, PhD (1946-2020) spent his 43-year career in higher education and beyond serving as a champion and proponent for engaging the community and policymakers at all levels in research. Gershen was president of Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), held executive roles at the University of Colorado at Denver, and was on the UCLA School of Dentistry faculty. In 1982, through a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship, he worked on health policy and legislation on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Jay also was a valued and active member of Research!America's Board of Directors beginning in 1996, where he provided superb leadership for Research!America's membership committee, working tirelessly to expand our organization's membership base. He also served on the Executive Committee and most recently as co-chair of the Resource Development Committee.

Phillip Randolph Lee, MD (1924-2020) was a practicing physician, an advocate for racial equity and health care reform, and a greatly admired and inspirational teacher, mentor, and administrator. As the nation's first Assistant Secretary of Health, in President Lyndon Johnson's administration, Lee was instrumental in the implementation of Medicare. He served as UCSF's third chancellor, from 1969 to 1971, and remained a respected and influential voice among the UCSF faculty until his departure from the University in 1993 to serve for a second time as Assistant Secretary of Health, this time under President Bill Clinton. He played an important role in guiding Research!America as a Board (1997-1998), and later, Emeritus Board (2003-2020), member.

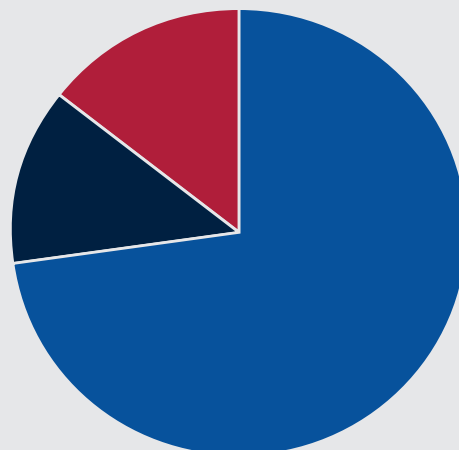
FINANCIALS

Research!America Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2020



REVENUE & SUPPORT

Contributions & Grants	\$1,770,316
Membership Dues	\$1,377,000
Program Support	\$756,500
Advocacy Awards Event	\$623,387
Other	\$76,976
In-Kind Support	\$116,145
Total Revenue and Support*	\$4,720,324



EXPENSES

Program	\$2,907,784
Fundraising	\$516,974
Administrative	\$569,673
Total Expenses*	\$3,992,581

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

Cash & Equivalents	\$641,512
Contributions Receivable	\$2,130,153
Investments	\$1,195,555
Property & Equipment	\$322,709
Other Assets	\$619,628
Total Assets*	\$4,909,557

NET ASSETS

With Donor Restrictions	\$2,387,574
Unrestricted	\$631,593
Total Net Assets*	\$3,019,167

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$16,852
Accrued Expenses	\$233,631
Deferred Rent	\$609,717
Notes Payable	\$458,300
Other Liabilities	\$571,890
Total Liabilities*	\$1,890,390

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

Net Assets at Beginning of 2020	\$2,188,585
Results from Operations	\$725,893
Realized and Unrealized Gains	\$104,689
Change in Net Assets*	\$830,582

AUDIT COMMITTEE

James Madara, MD **Chair**
 Tenley Albright, MD
 Mikael Dolsten, MD, PhD
 Gary Reedy
 Deborah Trautman, PhD, RN

* Summary information from unaudited financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020.

Audited financial statements, when available, will be provided upon request.

A copy of Research!America's most recently filed IRS Form 990 is available on Research!America's web site.

Research!America Auditors: RSM US LLP



SCIENCE STRONG FUTURE

Our nation and the global community remain in the grip of COVID-19, but we can and will chart a course forward in which existential threats like pandemics lose their power over us. There is no stronger advocate for lifesaving science than the Research!America alliance. It's time to convince Washington to fuel and leverage our nation's S&T capacity for the future Americans want... and need.

MOVING FORWARD

The pandemic is a siren blaring, warning our nation to clear the path now of other burgeoning health, economic, and security threats before they overtake us. As we move into 2021, Research!America is dedicated to building a Science Strong Future. Our core objective is to encourage and prove the case to federal policymakers that a proactive approach to maximizing our nation's R&D capacity is paramount. With bold actions, our nation can preempt and minimize threats. Together, we can and will build a Science Strong Future.

STAFF

Mary Woolley
President and CEO

Gwendolyn Bogard
Science Policy Intern

Erin Brown, MPP
Communications Associate

Sara Chang
Director of Advocacy Programs

Mike Coburn
Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer

Ellie Dehoney
Vice President, Policy and Advocacy

Emily Fruchterman, MPH, JD
Science Policy Fellow

Katie Goode
Director of Alliance Development and Membership

Sophia Kaska, PhD
Manager of Science Initiatives and Outreach

Jacqueline Lagoy
Executive Assistant

Aimée Lefever
Director of Operations

Jenny Luray, MPP
Vice President of Strategy and Communications

Donna McKelvey
Vice President, Alliance Development and Membership

Melissa Patton
Membership and Database Associate

Anna Platt
Senior Manager of Policy and Advocacy

Michelle Reddersen
Controller

Terri Schwartzbeck, MPP
Director of Communications

HOWARD HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE SCIENCE POLICY FELLOWS

Sarah Ackerman, PhD
Keila Miles, PhD

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND INTERNS

Leah Franklin
Avery League
Matthew Martin
Jessica Scott, PhD
Mark Von Eisenburg
Jessica Yan
Anna Zavodszky