

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

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

UNITING ADVOCATES FOR RESEARCH AND MEDICAL PROGRESS



WWW.RESEARCHAMERICA.ORG

Dear Advocate,

As we write this letter, the research community faces a fraught and uncertain landscape as unprecedented staff and funding cuts made to federal research agencies and policies are changed overnight. The new administration has taken actions that could result in great harm to scientific, technological, and medical progress for generations to come. These actions present risks but may also offer opportunities.

The Research!America alliance is approaching these challenges and opportunities on multiple fronts, informed by you, our members. From spearheading joint advocacy initiatives like a community sign-on letter with 600 organizations and 3,500 individuals participating, to active engagement with Administration officials and key members of Congress and their staff. We are also executing an ambitious schedule of alliance member-only sessions with relevant experts and consultants, as well as speaking with you individually, at your institutions, and on panels in D.C. and virtually. We're also providing more resources than ever to ensure that you, our members, are apprised of—and equipped to respond to—policy and funding developments. *We are pulling out all the stops.*

As always, we are keeping our finger on the pulse of public opinion; that's how we know that a striking 92% of Americans believe it is important for President Trump and Congress to do more to accelerate medical progress. The power of Research!America continues to be our 300+ member organizations and you – the dedicated individuals who are part of these organizations.

Looking back over 2024, we're reminded of working together to cultivate congressional champions through events like our standing-room-only Hill briefing on the critical role of clinical trials in the research and development continuum, featuring Rep. Larry Bucshon (R-IN-08) and leaders from the FDA, industry, and patient advocacy organizations.

Under the auspices of the Science and Technology Action Committee (STAC), we formed a fast-paced task force of 70+ leaders from across the science and technology enterprise to formulate VAST, a Vision for American Science and Technology. This recently released Vision presents a long-term, proactive game plan to safeguard discovery and innovation, including the creation of the world's most vibrant workforce. You will continue to hear more about VAST as this year goes forward; we invite you to take part.

In the pages that follow, you will see highlights from our work in 2024. Going forward with you, we will not only respond to the unprecedented challenges before us but relentlessly promote a vision of the U.S. achieving the fastest possible pace of medical and public health progress.

With gratitude,



Mary Woolley
Chief Executive Officer
Research!America

A handwritten signature in cursive script 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 cursive script that reads "S. Parikh".



Policy Highlights

The Research!America alliance is a driving force in advocating with one voice to represent the full R&D ecosystem. We advocate for increased federal funding for our nation's medical, health, and scientific R&D-focused agencies. To ensure research agencies receive robust funding and federal policies are aligned behind innovation, we work with our alliance members and individual advocates to encourage Congress and other elected officials to support science, fast-paced medical progress, and advances in public health.

Your advocacy has an impact! Throughout 2024, we worked to:



Produce 33 new policy and advocacy resources, including a nonpartisan candidate engagement toolkit, fact sheets, templates, and other resources, along with multiple resources focused on securing federal research funding increases, protecting tech transfer, and achieving other key advocacy objectives.

Address consequential NIH reform proposals, facilitate interactions with key congressional staff, and set the stage for productive engagement on both sides of the aisle as interest in NIH reform continued.

Facilitate discussions with congressional staff working on Cures 2.1, the third generation of bipartisan legislation (the 21st Century Cures Act), which is focused on strengthening the discovery, development, and delivery pipeline.

51

CONGRESSIONAL
MEETINGS

26

MEETINGS WITH
FEDERAL
OFFICIALS

1,548

MEDIA MENTIONS

41

NATIONAL FORUM
SPEAKERS

54

ALLIANCE
DISCUSSIONS

Advocacy Awards

Our [2024 Advocacy Awards](#) celebrated 12 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 Patty Murray
U.S. Senate (D-WA)



Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy
The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD
U.S. Senate (R-LA)



John Edward Porter Legacy Award, generously supported by Ann Lurie
The Honorable Michael N. Castle
Chair Emeritus, Research!America
Governor of Delaware, 1985-1992
U.S. Representative, 1993-2011



Builders of Science Award
Rita R. Colwell, PhD
Distinguished University
Professor, University of
Maryland, College Park



Herbert Pardes Family Award for National Leadership in Advocacy for Research
Norman R. Augustine
Retired Chairman & CEO, Lockheed
Martin Corp.,
Former Undersecretary of the Army



Gordon and Llura Gund Leadership Award
Robert W. Conn, PhD
Distinguished Policy Fellow,
School of Global Policy and
Strategy, UC San Diego
President and CEO, Emeritus,
The Kavli Foundation



Paul G. Rogers Distinguished Organization Advocacy Award
Alzheimer's Association



Isadore Rosenfeld Award for Impact on Public Opinion
Abraham C. Verghese, MD, MACP
Author; Linda R. Meier and Joan F.
Lane Provostial Professor; Vice Chair
for the Theory and Practice of
Medicine, Department of Medicine,
Stanford University

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



Outstanding Achievement in Public Health Award

Rajiv J. Shah, MD
President, The Rockefeller
Foundation



Building the Foundation Award

Jason S. McLellan, PhD
Professor, Robert A. Welch Chair
in Chemistry, Dept. of Molecular
Biosciences, UT Austin



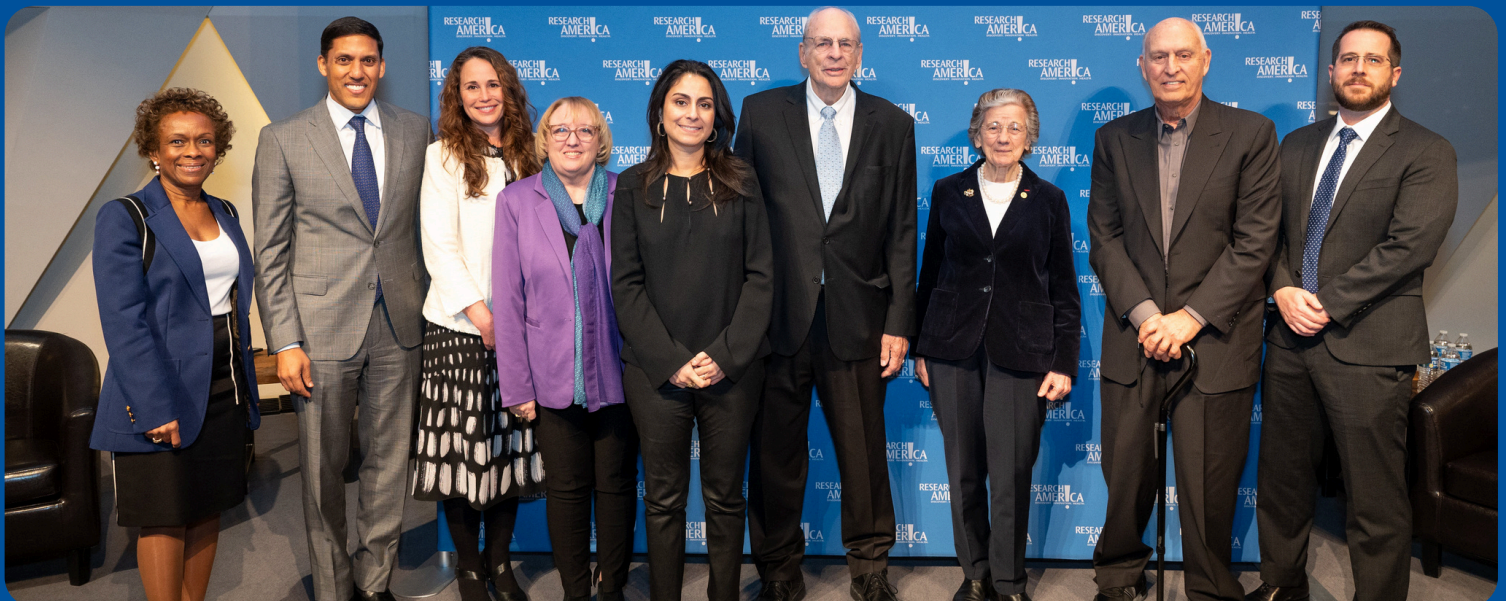
Meeting the Moment for Public Health Award

Celine Gounder, MD, ScM
Senior Fellow and Editor-at-Large
for Public Health, KFF Health News



Rapid Translation Award

Gavi, The Vaccine Alliance



Surveys

Our [America Speaks!: Poll Data Summary, Volume 24](#), released in April, serves as a resource for elected officials, outreach, and advocacy. We continued to assess public sentiment about science and research through two surveys and a report this year:



- Our [annual survey](#) in February 2024 found that a strong bipartisan majority (84%) of Americans agreed that it was important for candidates in the 2024 election to promote faster medical progress.
- In partnership with the American Heart Association, we surveyed [Americans' views on food and nutrition](#). Results showed that a striking 21% of respondents said that they or someone close to them had experienced persistent hunger in the past year. Nearly half (46%) said it was at least somewhat hard for them to regularly obtain and eat nutritious foods.
- In addition, we collaborated with the American Heart Association and Deloitte on [this report](#) exploring a complex topic: the future of food and its impact on health.

Engaging with Experts and Stakeholders



National Health Research Forum

The 2024 National Health Research Forum hosted thought-provoking discussions around Exploring Innovations in Health Systems Research, Strengthening the STEM Workforce, Accelerating Innovation Through Clinical Trials, Mental Health, Building Trust, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Drug Development, and more! This event featured:

- 1,022 registrants.
- 40 speakers, including 11 high-ranking government officials.

Notable speakers included:

- NSF Director Sethuraman Panchanathan, PhD.
- NIH Director Monica Bertagnolli, MD.
- CDC Director Mandy Cohen, MD.
- NIST Director Laurie Locascio, PhD.
- AHRQ Director Robert Valdez, PhD, MHSA.
- Novartis Global Head of Cardio-Metabolic Development, Dave Soergel, MD.
- Pfizer Chief Medical Officer, Aida Habtezion, MD, MSc.

Research!America thanks all our sponsors for their support of the National Health Research Forum.

Post-Election Briefing

Following the 2024 elections, we hosted our bi-annual Post-Election Briefing for an in-the-moment discussion about the 2024 election outcomes and implications for the 119th Congress. Moderator Laura Barrón-López, White House Correspondent for *The PBS News Hour*, led a [lively discussion](#) on the outlook for the newly elected administration and Congress, and its impact on R&D, science, and medical research.



Alliance Discussions

To help keep our members informed in real time of research progress and the public policy landscape, we hosted 54 [alliance discussions](#). Exceptional leaders from government, academia, and industry discussed timely topics, such as NIH reform, Cures 2.1, the rising threat of vector-borne diseases, new developments in women's health research, and health-focused AI.



Empowering Early Career Scientists and Building Science Trust

Civic Engagement Microgrant Program

Early career scientists are increasingly enthusiastic about engaging with their local communities, and our [Civic Engagement Microgrant Program](#), now in its 8th year, has been part of this important trend thanks to foundation support. In 2024, we provided 26 microgrants to groups across the country. In November, we launched the 2024–2025 cycle and received more than 100 applications, double the number from the previous year. We also created a new microgrant opportunity to develop public engagement training content for scientists.

Research!America also released [recommendations](#) about how to include public engagement skills in STEMM graduate training based on input from a group of university and foundation leaders. We look forward to continuing to build on these recommendations.

Coalition for Trust in Health & Science

Research!America continued work as a founding member of the [Coalition for Trust in Health & Science](#) (CTHS), a nonpartisan organization working to ensure people are empowered to make informed and personally appropriate health decisions for themselves, their families, and their communities. CTHS includes more than 90 national organizations promoting trust in health and science through collaborative learning, as well as timely, evidence-based resources.



Groundswell UMES Podcast,
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Early Career Summit

Our 4th [Early Career Summit](#) was held weekly over four days in June to maximize opportunities for early career scientists to learn more about civic engagement, science communication, science policy, and career development.

Research!America extends a special thank you to all our sponsors of this inspiring event.

Campaigns & Advocacy

Public Health Thank You Day

For 19 years, Research!America has organized an effort to say "thank you" to our public health workforce on the Monday before Thanksgiving.



There were approximately 1,000 tweets for Public Health Thank You Day, as well as involvement by more than 45 state and local health departments from 24 different states.

On Nov. 25, the bipartisan co-chairs of the Congressional Public Health Caucus co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 133 recognizing Public Health Thank You Day.

Global Health R&D

Through congressional meetings, engagement with administration officials, and public-facing communications, including this published op-ed, Research!America worked to raise awareness about the research and development (R&D) needed to prevent and stop emerging infectious threats, neglected tropical diseases, and other health risks that could imperil both Americans and populations around the world.

Science and Technology Action Committee

The Science and Technology Action Committee (STAC), an initiative that brings together nonprofit, academic, foundation, and corporate leaders, with Research!America in a leading role, aims to champion a bolder approach to bolstering our nation's R&D capacity. Building on momentum generated from the December 2023 release of STAC's State of Science in America report, we created a task force comprised of nearly 70 influential leaders across science, academia, industry, philanthropy, and policy. This task force's mission was to develop a Vision for American Science and Technology (VAST) to equip policymakers in Washington, D.C., with a clear vision for the future of science and technology, along with actionable policy recommendations.



Thank you for your part in realizing these accomplishments whether you joined us as an advocate, sponsor, or participant. We look forward to continuing our work to drive scientific and technological innovation and push for health-restoring, life-saving research. Patients (and we are all patients) are waiting.

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Professor Emeritus, Radiology and Biomedical Engineering, Johns Hopkins University; Director, National Institutes of Health (2002-2008)

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](#).

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