2010 Garfield Award Given to Frank Lichtenberg

Frank Lichtenberg, PhD, of Columbia Business School, is the recipient of the 2010 Garfield Economic Impact Award.

Lichtenberg’s study, “The Effect of New Cancer Drug Approvals on the Life Expectancy of American Cancer Patients, 1978-2004,” was published in Economics of Innovation and New Technology. The study found that cancer drugs in the past 40 years have helped patients live a year longer for around $7,000, far less than estimates of what Americans would pay for an extra life-year.

He was presented with the award during a December 2 reception on Capitol Hill. Lichtenberg also participated in a panel discussion with John Seffrin, PhD, CEO of the American Cancer Society and a Research!America board member, and Sherry A. M. Glied, PhD, assistant secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services and the 2004 Garfield Award winner. David Leonhardt of The New York Times moderated the discussion and Eugene Garfield, PhD, the award’s namesake, also spoke at the event.

The award is supported by a grant

Surveying the Post-Election Landscape

As part of the Your Candidates–Your Health voter education initiative, Research!America held a post-election analysis November 16 at the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, DC.

The event marked the release of Research!America’s 11th annual America Speaks poll data summary, supported by the United Health Foundation.

Speakers included former Congressman John Edward Porter, Research!America’s chair; Stacie Propst, PhD, Research!America’s former vice president of science policy and outreach; Mary Woolley, president of Research!America; and Albert H. Teich, PhD, director of science and policy programs at AAAS.

Investment Important for Job Creation & Economic Recovery

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Importance</th>
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<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>13%</td>
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</table>

SOURCE: YOUR CANDIDATES–YOUR HEALTH POLL, AUGUST 2010, CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA
As a student, Robert Roskoski, Jr., MD, PhD, was turned on to research out of an abundance of curiosity. The study of mechanisms in organic chemistry as an undergrad led to further study of biochemical mechanisms in graduate school.

After leaving a position with the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans, he knew that he wanted to continue his work as a researcher. He found a place to work in western North Carolina, not far from Asheville: Horse Shoe, located about 40 miles east of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Along with the scenic views to be had in Horse Shoe, there is serious work going on at BRIMR. The focus of their study has been a protein kinase called epidermal growth factor (EGF) receptor which, if overactive, can cause lung cancer and other tumors. By researching Food and Drug Administration-approved drugs, BRIMR now has a greater understanding of how the EGF receptor can be inhibited. However, this is only one piece of the puzzle, since there are typically multiple signaling pathways involved in causing cancer, Roskoski said.

And he sees benefits large and small to BRIMR’s membership with Research!America: Its website, which features profiles of selected life scientists, receives traffic from Research!America’s.

“As Research!America espouses the fundamental importance of medical research for the benefit of all,” Roskoski said, “the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research performs broad-based and fundamental medical research in keeping with this mission.”

Visit www.brimr.org for more.
Post-Election Outlook for Science
Will the new Members of Congress follow through on campaign pledges to put a cap on discretionary spending in 2011? If so, will federal research agencies be affected? Bloomberg News reported that if the incoming House implemented its campaign pledge, funding for NIH and other agencies would roll back to FY08 levels.

Research!America’s chair, former U.S. Rep. John Edward Porter, appeared on the television show BioCentury This Week, to share his thoughts on improving the climate for science and innovation in 2011. “Increasing the NIH budget going forward will require a major effort on behalf of the science community, the business community, the American people and the administration,” he said. “In the end, there will be spending. And if we don’t make the investments in science, technology, innovation and research now, we will lose our lead in these areas.”

Research!America President Mary Woolley told The New Scientist that it is important for the new Congress to see science and research spending as an investment in America’s economy rather than a cost.

In other interviews, Research!America told Science News, MyHealthNewsDaily and LiveScience that biomedical research funding has historically been a bipartisan issue and it should continue to receive support across party lines.

Research!America’s Your Candidates—Your Health voter education initiative was featured in Science shortly before Election Day.

Research as a Boon for Jobs and Local Economies
Jay A. Gershen, DDS, PhD, president of the Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy and a Research!America board member, wrote op-eds in The Youngstown (OH) Vindicator, The Canton (OH) Repository and MD News magazine on the growing biomedical and health care industries in Ohio. He said that partnering with advocacy organizations such as Research!America is key to attracting new businesses to Ohio and turning the state into a biomedical hub.

Public Support for Stem Cell Research
Nature Medicine published findings from a new HealthDay-Harris Interactive poll on embryonic stem cell research. The poll findings indicate that a majority of Americans from across the political spectrum support embryonic stem cell research. Woolley was quoted as saying that the American public’s support for embryonic stem cell research “underscores the fact that disease and disability are not partisan.” She also said that Research!America’s polling results on stem cell research are very similar to the HealthDay-Harris poll results.

Frieden Discusses Nation’s Biggest Health Battles
Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, identified what he considers to be America’s biggest and most winnable health battles based on public health research, in a Medscape Today interview. He mentioned tobacco usage, which has decreased nationwide but is still prevalent in some parts of the country, as well as the growing obesity epidemic.

Research!America and all our members must make the economic case for research in the context of the challenge of reducing debt while growing the economy. Conversation stimulated by the suggestions of the two debt commissions reveals the complexities of acting in our nation’s best interests. I am struck by former Sen. Pete Domenici’s recommendation to escalate consideration of our economic challenge to that of a war effort—mobilize the machinery of economic combat: Stoke the coals of economic growth by firing up innovation. Exempt science from cuts in discretionary spending and lower corporate tax rates to improve global competitiveness for our industries. As a recent UNESCO report makes clear, other nations are out-investing the U.S. in terms of percent of GDP devoted to R&D and are increasingly out-performing us in terms of translating discovery to productivity and output. Reversing these trends won’t happen unless our community speaks out.

Wondering how to get involved? We have tools on our website to help make the case for heightened investment in research via evidence of return on investment to date. Our new poll data booklet, our state-by-state statistics on impact of local investment in research, our recently-released yearly report of investment in research in the context of total health expenditure and more, can be sent to your elected representatives, the media and your own networks. It’s time for us all to mobilize and commit to overcoming the twin challenges of growing national debt and stalled economic growth by putting R&D at the forefront of recovery.
To make health research a top priority in the FY2012 budget discussions, Research!America is urging $35 billion in National Institutes of Health funding. These funds are critical to maintaining our current research capacity, stimulating our economy and ensuring that progress in medical innovation continues.

According to Research!America chair John Edward Porter, a former Congressman, “It will take motivated, committed people in Washington and motivated, committed people at home” to make Members of Congress understand that the foundation of America’s economy is science, technology, innovation and research.

Research!America encourages members to reach out to local talk radio and newspaper editorial boards and to meet with their delegation’s district offices about the importance of research funding.

To make research for health a priority for the 112th Congress, the community must come together, share ideas and make their unified voices heard on Capitol Hill. Send us your thoughts on messages and strategies for reaching out to Congress and the public in 2011 to advocacy@researchamerica.org.

The Campaign for Public Health Foundation hosted its inaugural Unsung Heroes of Public Health awards event in Washington, DC, on November 18. Cecilia Rosales, MD, of Arizona and Janet Zola, MPH, of San Francisco met with House and Senate offices to help educate their elected officials about the work they were doing. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s senior health staff members are among those who met with the winners. The Unsung Heroes reception, held at Union Station, was attended by senior leaders and major organizations in public health and disease control and prevention. The CPH Foundation was especially grateful to AMGEN for supporting the event with an educational donation. Pictured above, Richard Hubbard, MD, of Pfizer, presents the Wavemaker Award to Rosales and Isabelle Claxton of GlaxoSmithKline presents the Rock In The Pond Award to Zola.

The following table shows the 2011 federal research budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>President’s Request</th>
<th>% Change from 2010</th>
<th>House Appropriations Subcommittees</th>
<th>Senate Appropriations Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>$32.0 billion</td>
<td>+3.2%</td>
<td>$32.0 billion</td>
<td>$32.0 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</td>
<td>$6.6 billion</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
<td>$6.8 billion</td>
<td>$6.9 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>$7.42 billion</td>
<td>+8.0%</td>
<td>$7.42 billion</td>
<td>$7.35 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality</td>
<td>$611 million</td>
<td>+53.9%</td>
<td>$411 million</td>
<td>$397 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Reflects the CDC core program budget. For more information on the CDC budget, please visit www.FundCDC.org.
The Research Advocate

Rock Stars of Science Returns for 2010

Rock Stars of Science, which pairs rock stars with high-profile members of the health and medical research community, is back for 2010. The initiative, sponsored by Geoffrey Beene Gives Back® and GQ Magazine, features a six-page public service ad in the December issue of GQ.

“Scientists must venture outside their comfort zones to show the public how cool—and how important—their work really is,” said Francis Collins, MD, PhD, director of the National Institutes of Health and one of the 2009 Rock Stars of Science.

Geoffrey Beene Gives Back and Research!America won Top Public Service Campaign for the 2009 campaign from the DC chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

The featured researchers for 2010 include Stephen B. Baylin, MD; Elizabeth A. Blackburn, PhD; retired Rear Adm. Susan J. Blumenthal, MD; Geraldine Dawson, PhD; Frank L. Douglas, MD, PhD; Bernard A. Harris, MD; Catronia Jamieson, MD, PhD; Emil Kakkis, MD; Frank M. Longo, PhD; Joan Massagué, PhD; Mehmet C. Oz, MD; Eric M. Reiman, MD; Charles L. Sawyers, MD; Phillip A. Sharp, PhD; Craig B. Thompson, MD; Mehmet Toner, PhD; and Michael W. Weiner, MD.

Post-Election Survey Continued from page 1

They tackled tough questions: What can the advocacy community expect from the 112th Congress? What strategies will ensure research remains a funding priority?

Porter warned that the medical research community will face great challenges with the new Congress.

“We have to plan how we’re going to convince Members of Congress to make funding for research a high priority,” he said.

The road ahead will be difficult, Porter warned.

“Yes, it’s a difficult environment,” he said. “But let’s not simply say this is something that we can’t do. It is something we can do. And we have the best product to sell—we simply all need to get behind it and make it happen.”

AAAS is a Research!America member.

Lasker Awards Announce Call for Nominations

The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation is accepting nominations for the 2011 Lasker Awards through February 1, 2011. The awards will be offered in three categories.

The Basic Medical Research Award honors scientists whose work has provided techniques, information or concepts that contribute to eliminating major causes of death and disability. The Clinical Medical Research Award honors scientists whose contributions have improved the clinical treatment of patients. The Public Service Award honors those who have advocated for federal legislation and funding that supports research and creates important public health messages and programs.


2011 RESEARCH!AMERICA

Advocacy Awards

March 15, 2011
Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium
Washington, DC
6:30 p.m. Grand Reception
7:15 p.m. Dinner and Awards Presentations

www.researchamerica.org/advocacy_awards

2011 ADVOCACY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Raymond and Beverly Sackler Award for Sustained National Leadership
J. Michael Bishop, MD, Nobel laureate and chancellor emeritus of University of California, San Francisco
Gordon and Llura Gund Leadership Award
Michael Bloomberg, New York City mayor
Isadore Rosenfeld Award for Impact on Public Opinion
Charlie Rose, executive editor and anchor of “Charlie Rose” on PBS
Paul G. Rogers Distinguished Organization Advocacy Award
Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center
Builders of Science Award
Dean Kamen, founder of DEKA Research & Development

Plan to join us earlier in the day at the Research!America Annual Meeting and 2011 National Forum at the National Press Club.

SPECIAL THANKS TO RENEWING RESEARCH!AMERICA ALLIANCE MEMBERS

American Pediatric Society
American Sociological Association
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
Juvenile Diabetes Research International Foundation
Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute
Midwest Nursing Research Society
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
New York Stem Cell Foundation
New York University
Society for Public Health Education
SPARC, The Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition
The Foundation Fighting Blindness
The Society for Women's Health Research
University of California Davis School of Medicine
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine
University of Southern California School of Dentistry

Not yet a member? Join Research!America today at www.researchamerica.org/become_member_or_donate.

The Research Advocate 5
from Merck & Co., Inc., a Research!America member, along with the Eugene Garfield Foundation and Research!America. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) served as congressional honorary host for the reception.

Established in 2002, the Garfield Economic Impact Award annually recognizes the outstanding work of one or more early-career economists who demonstrate how medical and health research impacts the economy. Over the years, Garfield awardees have become well recognized by their peers, policy makers and influential media.

See this month’s insert about the award and its recipients.

Amy Finkelstein, PhD, of MIT, the 2006 winner of the Garfield Economic Impact Award, received the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their careers.

The Economist cited a recent UNESCO report which found that America, Europe and Japan conducted more than 95% of the world’s research and development in 1990, but by 2007, that number slipped to 76%. However, international collaboration is 25% higher now than it was 15 years ago.

The annual awards are administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation.

“The extraordinary accomplishments of these scientists, engineers and inventors are a testament to American industry and ingenuity,” President Barack Obama said. “Their achievements have redrawn the frontiers of human knowledge while enhancing American prosperity.”

Lindquist works at the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, Mishkin, at the National Institutes of Health, and Prusiner at the University of California, San Francisco. The Whitehead Institute and UCSF are both Research!America members.

2010 Garfield Award Continued from page 1

Medical researchers Susan L. Lindquist, PhD; Mortimer Mishkin, PhD, and Stanley B. Prusiner, MD, were among 16 scientists to receive the National Medal of Science.

Very important 63%
Somewhat important 29%
Not important 2%
Don’t know 6%

SOURCE: RESEARCH ENTERPRISE POLL, FEBRUARY 2010, CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA

U.S. Should be Global Leader in Bringing Medicines to Market

How important do you think it is that the U.S. is a global leader in bringing new medicines to market?
Subra Suresh of MIT Confirmed to Become NSF Director

Subra Suresh, PhD, was sworn in as the 13th director of the National Science Foundation by President Barack Obama’s science advisor, John Holdren, PhD. Suresh had been confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

A mechanical engineer who became interested in materials science and biology, Suresh is a pioneer in the study of the biomechanics of blood cells in diseases such as malaria.

Suresh served as dean of the engineering school and Vannevar Bush Professor of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also held joint faculty appointments in Materials Science and Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Biological Engineering and Health Sciences and Technology at MIT.

MIT is a Research!America member.

Wake Forest’s Baptist Medical Center Launches Office of Global Health

Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center launched an Office of Global Health to institutionally recognize health problems that transcend national borders or have a global, political and economic impact. It will facilitate direct initiatives to impact global health and serve as the foundation to integrate projects and facilitate growth in this area.

Under Assistant Dean of Global Health Bret Nicks, MD, there are already many examples of global health efforts at the medical center, including the creation of Kybele Inc., a humanitarian organization dedicated to improving childbirth conditions worldwide through medical education partnerships.

Wake Forest University School of Medicine is a Research!America member.

J&J Executive Testifies on Global Impact of NTD’s

Paul Stoffels, MD, group chairman of R&D for Johnson & Johnson’s pharmaceutical division, addressed the World Health Organization at a meeting in Geneva to mark the launch of the first report on neglected tropical diseases.

The report suggests that several of the 17 neglected diseases identified could be eliminated by 2020 by increasing the distribution of simple medicines.

Stoffels outlined Johnson & Johnson’s 5-year program to improve the health of more than 120 million women and children each year in developing countries.

“Individually, we each have the power to make a difference,” Stoffels said. “Collectively, we can be formidable and change the world by combining and deploying resources and knowledge to reduce the burden of neglected tropical disease and improve health globally.”

Johnson & Johnson is a Research!America member.

Majority Say U.S. Global Health R&D is Important

How important would you say it is that the U.S. work to improve health globally through research and development?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Importance Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
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<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not too important</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all important</td>
<td>4%</td>
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</table>

SOURCE: YOUR CANDIDATES—YOUR HEALTH POLL, AUGUST 2010, CHARLTON RESEARCH COMPANY FOR RESEARCH!AMERICA
Final decisions about the president’s FY2012 budget recommendations are being made now, making it a critical time to take action. Cuts to the entire federal budget have been proposed—including health research agencies. Please remind the president that a robust investment in science is critical to creating jobs, improving health, encouraging innovation and revitalizing the economy.

Take action now. Urge President Obama to maintain his commitment to “restore science to its rightful place” by proposing and fighting for $35 billion in NIH funding in FY2012.
ECONOMISTS DEMONSTRATE IMPACT OF RESEARCH

AMERICANS RECOGNIZE THAT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH CONTRIBUTES to the economic strength of our communities and our nation. In a 2010 Research!America poll, 77% of Americans said that research to improve health is part of the solution to rising health care costs. This impression is supported by a growing body of economic analysis. While the full picture of the economic value of research that improves health is still emerging, many of the nation’s most respected economists are weighing in.

Since 2002, Research!America’s Garfield Economic Impact Award has honored the outstanding work of one or more early-career economists. Over the years, Garfield awardees have become well recognized by their peers, policy makers and influential media.

Established in 2002, the Garfield Economic Impact Award annually recognizes outstanding research that illustrates how medical or health research impacts the economy. Founding support for the Garfield Economic Impact Award was provided by the Eugene Garfield Foundation. Beginning in 2010, the award is also supported by a grant from Merck & Co., Inc. The award is named for Eugene Garfield, Ph.D., president and founding editor of The Scientist, creator of the Science Citation Index and a Research!America emeritus director.

The researchers, led by Thomas J. Philipson and Anupam B. Jena, both of the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Studies, were honored for using a novel approach to measure the value of HIV/AIDS drugs developed from 1980 to 2000 and found their value to be nearly $1.4 trillion. This work showed the value of medical research and the public knowledge derived from it. Cutler showed the value of medical research in leading not only to new cardiovascular therapies but also to new information people can use in day-to-day healthcare decisions. Cutler estimated the return on investment for new medical treatments is about 4 to 1 and the return on health knowledge is about 30 to 1.

The study also highlighted the importance of considering improvements in quality of life when evaluating the value of medical research. Murphy and Topel estimated that improvements in life expectancy alone, not considering improvements in quality of life, added $2.6 trillion per year to national wealth between 1970 and 1999. The researchers found these policies were associated with a 2.5-fold increase in development of new vaccine technologies.

In a study published in "Health Affairs," Finkelstein of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology examined the effect of health policies designed to increase the use of existing vaccine technologies as an incentive for research leading to new technologies. Finkelstein found these policies were associated with a 2.5-fold increase in development of new vaccine technologies.