

# Girl boosts appeal for funding

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WASHINGTON — A group of universities, scientists, drug companies and others turned to a Nebraska girl Wednesday to help make their case for sustained federal funding of medical research.

Chloe Lamprécht, 12, a student at Lewis & Clark Middle School in Bellevue, was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes five years ago.

A booster step helped her reach the microphone at Wednesday's press conference at the National Press Club.

Chloe said that she expects scientists will find a cure for diabetes in her lifetime, but questioned just how long it might take.

"I know the chances of me going blind or losing a limb grow stronger every day that we don't have a cure, and that scares me," she said.

Chloe was one of the real-life examples cited by the coalition of patients and their families waiting for cures.

Wednesday's event was organized in part to thank Congress and the Obama administration for including \$10 billion for the National Institutes of Health in the \$787 billion economic stimu-

## **The 12-year-old from Bellevue with juvenile diabetes helps make the case for sustained support of medical research.**

lus package. But participants also expressed concern that the stimulus funding would be seen as sufficient and that support for research would drop off.

Billy Tauzin, CEO of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said during the press conference that it will take a lot more than \$10 billion to successfully battle the chronic diseases facing medical researchers.

Representatives from the University of Nebraska Medical Center were on hand and also stressed the importance of continued financial support for research. Mark Bowen, director of government relations for UNMC, said that the medical center has been awarded more than \$9.4 million thus far in biomedical research funding through the stimulus legislation.

For example, UNMC's Jennifer Larsen received \$100,000 to

help her research into risk factors for heart disease after kidney transplants.

Larsen said that supporters must make the case for why medical research is important. Otherwise, people hear about an isolated research project and wonder how it connects to them, Larsen said.

"Too often we think about research, we think about test tubes and laboratories, rats, white coats, but where does it go?" she said.

She said that people should understand that in addition to finding cures for diseases, medical research helps discover new approaches to prevention and the most cost-effective treatment options.

She also said that the research funding included in the stimulus bill has led to new jobs and equipment purchases, all of which helps spur on the economy.

For Chloe and her mother, Stacy Lamprecht, however, the focus was on what the research can produce for those suffering from disease.

"It means there's a strong hope for a cure within Chloe's lifetime," Stacy Lamprecht said.

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