

Research Leaders and Patients Thank President, Congress for Recovery Act Funding and Urge Sustained NIH Support



More than 70 leaders in the medical research community gathered on October 21, 2009, at a press conference hosted by ResearchMeansHope.org to thank the administration and members of Congress for more than \$10 billion in Recovery Act funding for NIH, and to raise awareness of the need to sustain the momentum through significant annual increases to the NIH budget in 2011.



Edward D. Miller, M.D., dean and CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine and chair of the ResearchMeansHope.org campaign, convened the press conference. “Medical research is a wide lane on the road to recovery – for our nation’s fiscal as well as physical health,” he said. “It’s simply one of the best investments we can make in our future.”



“Thank you for continuing to invest in my future,” said 12-year-old diabetes patient Chloe Lamprecht who spoke at the press conference. “Promise that you will remember me and that you will fight for a cure for diabetes.” Lamprecht is a volunteer for University of Nebraska Medical Center.



Olivia Grace Jones had a heart transplant when she was 17-months old. “Twenty years ago, Olivia would not have lived,” said her mother, Schonay Barnett-Jones. “Thanks to research and the commitment of scientists, we have a thriving, energetic 5-year old. . . . What does increased funding for research mean to us? It means that perhaps one day, Olivia won’t have to have a catheterization every six months. . . . It means she may not have to take medication every 12 hours for the rest of her life. . . . As my grandmother once said, ‘If you can, do better.’ And I think we *can* do better” with medical research.



“[The Recovery Act funding] is a huge boost for the research community, for investigators at all stages of their careers,” said Judith S. Bond, Ph.D., M.S., distinguished professor and chair, department of biochemistry and molecular biology at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. “It has inspired the creative energies of researchers and has generated new ideas that we need to capitalize on. Without sustained and predictable funding for NIH, we stand to extinguish the spark of curiosity and talent in new scientists unable to get grants to explore new ideas.”



Billy Tauzin, president and CEO of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), told the story of his battle with cancer and spoke about the role of innovation in medical research. "Sometimes what keeps you going is the hope that a researcher is working on something that can help you," he said.



Participants at the ResearchMeansHope.org press conference included, (from left), Edward D. Miller, M.D., dean and CEO, Johns Hopkins Medicine and chair of ResearchMeansHope.org; Olivia Grace Jones, 5-year-old heart patient; Schonay Barnett-Jones, Olivia's mother; Chloe Lamprecht, 12-year-old diabetes patient; Stacy Lamprecht, Chloe's mother; Judith S. Bond, Ph.D., M.S., distinguished professor and chair, department of biochemistry and molecular biology at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine; Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., president and CEO, Association of American Medical Colleges; and Billy Tauzin, president and CEO, PhRMA.