



Council for American Innovation: Background

The Opportunity: America's future prosperity and health will largely depend on maintaining a lead role in scientific, technological and medical innovation.

- American leadership in medical innovation creates well-paying jobs, keeps our workforce healthy and productive and provides hope for patients whose lives depend on finding cures for cancer and other life-threatening conditions.
- President Obama has called for a new effort to cure cancer in our lifetime. Policies that support research and medical innovation must be put in place to find cures for cancer and other life-threatening conditions – and maintain U.S. competitiveness.

The Challenge: America is losing this important leadership position to countries that have made innovation a priority.

- A study released in February 2009 by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation found that, while the U.S. currently ranks sixth among 40 countries and regions in innovation and competitiveness, it placed last in terms of progress made over the last decade. Singapore, Sweden, Luxembourg, Denmark and South Korea now outrank the U.S. These countries have been adopting policies that nurture innovation, and it is working.
- The share of U.S. patents is decreasing compared to the rest of the world, as is our share of individuals with advanced degrees in the sciences and engineering. In the past 25 years, America's share of scientific researchers fell from 41% to 29% and the number of new doctorates in science and engineering in the U.S. decreased by 30%.
- Today's policy decisions will likely have a long-term impact on the future of medical innovation in the United States. Research shows that 94% of medical innovation professionals see government policy as critical to the success of the medical innovation industry. Only 30% give the government passing grades on this key issue, while 70% give the government poor marks.

The Solution: Working in Partnership toward a National Policy Agenda Aimed at Protecting U.S. Leadership in Medical Innovation.

- Time magazine reports, "Unless things change, the breathtaking burst of discovery that has been driving our economy for the past half-century will be over."
- The Council for American Medical Innovation, made up of leaders from research, medicine, academia, education, labor and business communities, advocates for a national medical innovation policy agenda that:
 - Increases incentives for investment in research, development and its application.
 - Increases investment in the life sciences.
 - Ensures an increasingly highly skilled and trained work force in the United States.
- The Council views American leadership in medical innovation as a key part of our economic recovery.

For more information, or to join the Council, contact Emily Romans at 202.778.1268 or via e-mail at eromans@americanmedicalinnovation.org or visit:

www.americanmedicalinnovation.org