



## **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 medical innovation companies employ highly skilled researchers and scientists who develop breakthrough medicines and generate employment for millions.
- American businesses are operating in a globally competitive economy in which they must innovate to succeed. Medical innovation keeps our workforce healthy and productive – which maintains United States competitiveness in all areas.

### **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: The Council for American Medical Innovation is working in partnership toward a national policy agenda aimed at protecting American 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, patient advocacy, labor and business communities, are advocating 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.