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## Washington Update

February 28, 2014

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### **Institute of Medicine President Elected**

On Feb. 19, the National Academy of Sciences announced that Victor J. Dzau, MD will serve as the next president of the Institute of Medicine (IOM). Dr. Dzau, who is a pioneer in the development of ACE inhibitors to treat high blood pressure and gene therapy to treat vascular disease, is the current chancellor of health affairs at Duke University and president and CEO of Duke University Health System. The IOM, established by the National Academy of Sciences in 1970, provides independent analysis and advice to the federal government and other organizations on issues including health care delivery systems and public health initiatives. Dr. Dzau will begin his six-year term as president on July 1, 2014.

### **Rep. John Dingell to Retire**

On Feb. 26, Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.) announced that he will not seek reelection to his seat in the House of Representatives. Dingell, a representative of Michigan's 12<sup>th</sup> district, is the longest serving

member of Congress in United States history and served as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee for 16 total years. The committee oversees biomedical research and other health programs including mental health services, the regulation of food and drugs, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

First elected to Congress in a special election to replace his father in 1955, Rep. Dingell has held a significant role in the passage of several major pieces of health legislation since taking office, including Medicare's passage in 1965, expansion of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). Mentioned as a possibility to run for ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. Dingell's retirement clears the field for Reps. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) and Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) to run for the leadership spot.

### **Congressional Caucus to Hold BRAIN Initiative Hearing**

On Feb. 26, the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus led by Reps. Steve Stivers (R-Ohio), Rush Holt (D-N.J.), Charlie Dent (R-Penn.), and Jackie Speier (D-Calif.) held a briefing to discuss the National Institutes of Health BRAIN Initiative. The Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, which was announced by President Obama on Apr. 2, 2013, aims to accelerate the development of technologies to enable scientists and researchers the ability to map in detail the neuronal pathways of the brain, uncovering new information about how the brain stores and accesses information. Ultimately, the initiative hopes to uncover new knowledge about the diagnosis and treatment of complex brain disorders including Alzheimer's disease and epilepsy. The meeting featured testimony from the initiative's advisory committee co-chair Cornelia Bargmann, PhD. More information on the BRAIN Initiative may be found [here](#).

### **House Democrats Urge Hearing on Inclusion of Women and Minorities in Medical Research**

On Feb. 25, Reps. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Frank Pallone (D-N.J.), ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, issued a [letter](#) to their Republican counterparts on the committee, Reps. Fred Upton (R-Mich.) and Joe Pitts (R-Penn.), urging a hearing to discuss progress on the inclusion of women and minorities in National Institutes of Health (NIH) clinical trials. The letter focused on the National Institutes of Health Revitalization Act of 1993, which mandated that a certain percentage of women and minorities participate in NIH clinical trials research and that clinical data be analyzed by sex and minority group. While the legislation has been effective increasing women and minority participation in NIH clinical trials, improvements can be made in order to answer many lingering questions about health disparities between men and women as well as between different minority groups.

## **PPC Sessions at PAS 2014**

There will be two PPC-led sessions at PAS held May 3 – May 6 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The PPC Plenary Session on state implementation of the Affordable Care Act will take place from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on May 5. The PPC Legislative Breakfast on the future of pediatric research funding will be held on May 5 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.

## **Save the Date: Legislative Conference 2014**

Mark your calendar! The AAP's 2014 Legislative Conference will be held June 15, 2014 – June 17, 2014, in Washington, DC. Join pediatricians from across the country and learn how you can become a strong advocate for the children you care for. Please visit [www.aap.org/legcon](http://www.aap.org/legcon) for more information about the conference, including a brochure, scholarships, and how to register.