



*****EMBARGOED UNTIL 7:00PM on Wednesday, March 12, 2014*****

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Fattah Acceptance Remarks at Research!America's 2014 Advocacy Awards

WASHINGTON— *Congressman Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS), was honored tonight by Research!America with the Edwin C. Whitehead Award for Medical Research Advocacy. Below are his acceptance remarks as prepared for delivery:*

"Thank you. Today, in the world that we live in, a billion people suffer from neurological diseases or disorders. Here in the United States, that number is close to 100 million.

"The Fattah Neuroscience Initiative is designed to deal with this global challenge. We've had some major successes to date: In 2012, through my efforts, Congress created the Interagency Working Group on Neuroscience housed at the White House; a year later we directed the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to collaborate with the pharmaceutical community on increasing private sector investment in brain research; and just weeks ago the President signed the 2014 spending bill which promoted an internationalization of our brain research efforts.

"But we are just at the beginning of our effort, and tonight, I'd like to make a little news. Upon request by the European Union's (EU) Human Brain Project and its leadership, together with their counterparts at the United States' BRAIN Initiative, I've been asked to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that will create the most significant scientific collaboration ever on brain research—and possibly the most important scientific relationship in history.

"The collaboration will not only bring together the EU and the United States, but it will also create portals allowing for other brain mapping and brain research efforts worldwide to join in this shared venture.

"This global challenge requires global partnership, and our agreement will help define the future of neuroscience research. I am certain because of this effort we will see real, tangible progress within the next 10 years.

"I must thank Rafi Gidron of Israel Brain Technologies whose leadership on neuroscience—especially his work in bringing together the EU and the U.S. on this effort— has been instrumental.

"To Research!America, thank you for this humbling honor—your organization is unparalleled when it comes to pushing for a stronger national research agenda. When researchers uncover the next breakthrough cure or treatment, it will be in no small part to your tireless advocacy and support.

"I also want to thank my colleagues in Congress who have supported my initiative since day one—it's truly been a bipartisan enterprise, and we've been more successful as a result. Thank you to Senator Barbara Mikulski—my Democratic counterpart on the CJS Committee in the Senate, to House Appropriations Chairman Hal Rogers and Ranking Member Nita Lowey, and of course, to my co-honoree and good friend, Chairman Frank Wolf, who has

been an incredible partner on this issue. Finally, I want to thank my staff, who work so hard to see these projects through.

“This is an exciting time for neuroscience—and our efforts just got much, much stronger. Thank you again for this honor, and thanks to each of you for your commitment to making research a priority in America.”

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