

Impact of media-science roundtables and training programs for researchers

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Research!America, the largest non-profit alliance of groups and individuals in the United States dedicated to public education about research, has recently conducted a series of media-science roundtables and training programs for researchers, as part of its commitment to step up the frequency and effectiveness of communication about science to elected officials, the media and the public. The presenter will describe these programs and give evidence of their impact, emphasizing how the programs have been tailored to specific audiences and can be adapted to the interests of a broad range of communities.

Data from surveys commissioned by Research!America and Sigma Xi, the scientific honorary society, will be incorporated, and comments on the importance of such programs, from well-known members of the science community, elected officials and distinguished journalists, will be cited. Discussion will include distinctions between science policy and the politics of science, and the importance to the science community of being both accountable and accessible to the public whose interests they serve.