Example Congressional Meeting Talking Points

It is not important to read or communicate all of these points during the meeting. These talking points should supplement your message and provide additional information should the member of congress or his/her staff desire it.

Why is biomedical research an important federal investment?

- Saves lives, cures disease and improves human health.
  - In the past 40+ years, NIH funded research has successfully reduced the mortality and morbidity of once acute and lethal conditions.
  - Work continues to reduce the burden of heart disease, cancer and AIDS
- Creates jobs and stimulates the economy
  - According to a 2008 Families USA study, NIH grants awarded in 2007 to medical schools, universities, and research institutions generated $50.5 billion in new state business activity and over 350,000 jobs, with average salaries of $52,000 per year, well above the national average.
  - For every dollar invested in local communities, NIH funding produces at least two dollars in local economic growth.
- Fosters scientific innovation, supporting local business and industry.
- Funds education and training of the next generation of medical researchers, who will make the medical breakthroughs of tomorrow.

Perspective

- Cancer, diabetes and heart disease cost nearly twice as much in one year ($876 billion) as the United States has invested in the National Institutes of Health ($453 billion) in the last 70 years.

The Issue: Boom and bust cycles funding for biomedical research at the NIH

- Adjusted for inflation, the NIH budget had been declining since 2004 and the agency had lost over 11 percent of its purchasing power by fiscal year (FY) 2009.
- Reducing the NIH budget to pre-ARRA (FY 2009) funding levels will create another boom and bust cycle resulting in lost jobs, terminated projects, and delays in life saving research. NIH’s capacity to support research could decline by as much as 16.4 % in constant dollars. The total number of Research Project Grants (RPG’s) could decline by 40.1 percent in FY 2011

The ASK:

- A robust NIH budget in FY 2011 and in the future is crucial to maintaining the research investment created by the stimulus.