

Good Morning, welcome to both panels.

Let me begin by thanking this subcommittee for providing the leadership that resulted in an increase in Fiscal Year 2012 to support basic science. We recognized NIH's mission is to invest in basic biomedical research. We made policy choices to support the pipeline of investigators and the extramural basic biomedical infrastructure across the nation. The FY 2012 Appropriations Act included a number of important items and Statements of Managers provisions, and I expect NIH will ensure both the letter and spirit of this language is followed.

Specifically, our efforts provided a much needed base increase and specific language for the Clinical & Translational Sciences Awards and Institutional Development Awards programs. We also continued support for the National Children's Study which is of interest to both the ranking member and myself as co-founders of the Congressional Baby Caucus. The NCS is a necessary study of 100,000 children from birth to age 21.

It aims to examine the effects of the environment on the growth, development, and health of children across the United States. The FY 2013 budget request provides vaguely described changes to the study and an unanticipated reduction in the cost. A transparent discussion is needed to ensure the proposed changes do not undermine the scientific value of this study, as I think we all agree it is important to finally gather a large body of basic scientific data which in the future can improve the health and well-being of our children.

I agree with one of the key NIH 2013 budget request themes--to invest in basic science. It is important, I believe, to support the historical level of 55 percent of NIH resources toward basic science. I suggest NIH develop a governance process toward this end. Otherwise, the increased focus on translational research could squeeze out NIH's primary mission -- that of basic science. We do not want to wake up in the future to find a NIH Director without a stable full of science available for translation because we took our eye off the ball of basic science.

Another trend of concern is incremental decreases that continue to divert funds from the extramural to the intramural science programs. Again, I suggest NIH find a governance process to resume the historical balance of 10 percent for the intramural programs.

Finally, I cannot imagine supporting NIH's request to reduce the base of the IDeA program below the level provided FY 2012. This program supports diversity, capacity building, basic science, and developing young investigators in 23 states for less than one percent of NIH's budget.

Today, we have expert NIH and outside witness panels to discuss issues related to NIH and the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences. I believe, we provided NIH with a more focused authority to study steps in the therapeutics development process, consult with experts in academia, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical industries to identify bottlenecks in the processes that are amenable to re-engineering. The specific mission of NCATS is to coordinate and develop resources to leverage basic research to support translational science and develop

partnerships in ways that do not create duplication, redundancy, and competition with industry activities.

NCATS has authority to support clinical trials and infrastructure activities, in addition to a reasonable, but narrower level of authority, to take drugs into phase two clinical trials. Congress did not provide or envision NCATS or NIH to have authority to compete with industry or become a drug developing organization. The focus of NIH and NCATS is to study the process and leverage basic science toward the goal of providing tools and methods to industry which can one day speed up the drug development process. I repeat, the focus of NIH and NCATS is to study the process and leverage basic science toward the goal of providing tools and methods to industry which can one day speed up the drug development process.

I am looking forward to a discussion but let me first ask the ranking member if she has any comments before we turn to the panels.....