

Jon, thank you for that over-the-top introduction.

It's nice to be here in Fotiland.

I have known and been a colleague and advocate with Marge Foti for a long, long time.

You are blessed in the AACR with a Level V leader.

And she has once again proven that by getting on staff

Jon Retzlaff and all the talent and drive that he brings to his job as head of your Washington advocacy office.

I am grateful you have invited me today, and honored to speak with you about federal funding and support for cancer and medical research.

At the outset, I should tell you where I'm coming from

My father contracted polio as an infant and walked his
entire life with a brace on his leg

The Salk vaccine became available when I was
15 years old.

Now you understand why I believe so
passionately in medical research

Secondly, I'm not a scientist

MIT, before lawyer like my father

Learned appreciation for science and the
scientific method.

Third, I'm a moderate Republican

I should be in a **museum**

Lastly, my wife led the Foundation for the National
Institutes of Health for eight years

She retired from that position a year ago and
now leads the National Osteoporosis Foundation
as its CEO and Executive Director

So, our entire family is dedicated to human
health and medical research

Jon has described for us the political situation in
Washington.

It's the toughest it's been in years, maybe ever

1995 was certainly tough

But the economy was fairly strong and the national
debt and deficits not so large

Now the economy is weak, the deficits large, and
the debt, huge

But with a work and determination, we came through
then, and with your leadership and that of
others like you, we'll come through **now**

Great Marine saying: when the going gets tough, the
tough get going

If there was ever a time to be **stronger** for what
You believe in and more **passionate** in your
advocacy, it's right now

Not only do we have a tough economic and budgetary
environment, we have a recent history of stagnation
in federal support for research

After 9/11, the Bush budgets pretty much froze funding,
for all medical research as adjusted for inflation.

Money then was spent on national security that we had
to afford

But also on wars we didn't and couldn't

But not only was federal funding for research frozen,
everything that was not defense, national security, or
veterans was also frozen

So we are competing today for scarce dollars for our priorities
against thousands of others working the Hill and the public for
their priorities

That makes our work for cancer and medical research
even more difficult and more imperative.

You will find, if you haven't already, lots of Members of
Congress, who have no idea how NIH money is spent

Who don't know what peer-review is

Who have never been inside a research
laboratory

Who don't understand the relationship between
federal funding for basic science research
and the products and processes
resulting from it and from the applied
research of American industry

Unfortunately, I'm not talking about just the newly
elected Members of the 112th Congress

When I became the chairman of the subcommittee in
1995, a Republican leader who will remain
nameless, asked me what we needed NIH for, since all of
the research was already being done in research
institutions throughout the country

So we have not only **advocacy** work to do, but also **education**.

Now, let's talk about the **best messages** to bring to bear in this environment for medical research. But let's start by understanding something.

It's the job of appropriators, and ultimately of the entire Congress, to **choose priorities** for our country and to invest money in them.

Remember, money **will be spent**.

The question is "On What?"

That's what we want to influence.

The first and best message in the current environment is an economic one.

I believe that America's **economic destiny** is
science, technology, innovation, and
research

Here we **lead the world** and have since World
War II

Here is a tremendous engine of economic growth,
providing high-tech, high paying jobs

But here is where we also have new and well-funded
competition.

China and India come to mind.

If we can't lead here, where can we compete in this
global economy?

It's only by staying ahead and becoming better
educated and more innovative than other
societies that we can hope to compete
and grow

As part of the economic message, tell them how much their state or district receives in research funding from the NIH appropriation.

The data is readily available and it always gets their attention.

So, be prepared to tell them:

How many jobs will be created for each \$1 million of NIH funding.

How many more will be spun off?

What will happen if we fail to make the investments needed to sustain our global leadership?

The data is available.

Tell them that it's here in science research and science, engineering, math, and technology education where we must invest....**Must!**

The human health message is a compelling one

Every family is touched by disease.

The bottom line for elected officials isn't the good of the "research enterprise", that is, **you and your institutions**, it's healthier, happier, longer-lived Americans, **their** constituents, the people they are privileged to represent.

Every person, even hard-headed Congresspeople, understand, as Paul Rogers used to say, "Without research, there is no hope."

The best way to depict medical research progress is in anecdotal terms.

Use: **Then, Now, Imagine**

What was the situation twenty-five or thirty years ago in respect to cancer?

What is the situation now?

Imagine how it could be ten or fifteen years from now, **if** we make the essential investments.

Finally, scientific opportunities have never been greater, and we must make the investments to take advantage of them.

At the same time we must show young Americans this is where personal opportunity lies as well

After this recession, maybe our kids won't all want to be investment bankers or hedge fund managers.

Maybe some will want to become scientists or even patient activists.

So those are the messages that, I believe, will resonate most strongly when you meet with the Member or their staff.

But beyond visiting with them in Washington or at home and making these points with passion, what else should we do?

By we, I mean you and I.

Yes, not the person sitting next to you, I mean “you”.

Particularly, I want to talk with the cancer research scientists.

You are the **most respected** people in America.

Poll after poll shows that for years and years.

But it means nothing **if you don't use it** to influence public policy!

There's a great deal you can do at home

Research ! America: Your Congress/Your

Health...Your Candidates/Your Health

Call your Members or Senators office

You're entitled to know where they stand

Write an op-ed piece, talk to your local service clubs,

take a science reporter to lunch,

Go in to see your paper's editorial board

If you're a patient activist, take a local research
scientist with you

Go to a local school, talk to the class about the

importance of medical research

Teachers are not necessarily informed

The kids have to be and have to be inspired

Only **you** can inspire them.

After this recession, maybe our kids won't all
want to be investment bankers or hedge fund
managers

Maybe some will want to be scientists or patient
activists.

Next year is an election year....**Opportunity!**

We want to elect people to come to Washington to
solve the **country's** problems

Not to serve their **party**

Remember, too, that in many districts, the
primary election is often, the election

Where it is, you have to impact the primary

So, **get involved** in the electoral process

- Go to the candidates debates

Ask a question about their position on
cancer research

You'll get an idea about the candidates'
knowledge and interest

Choose a candidate you like

Federal or state, maybe governor or state
representative

Why state level candidates?

Call their campaign office and volunteer to
advise them on health matters

Guarantee, welcomed with open arms

Because a refusing candidate is a
losing candidate

Tell them you'll form a science advisory
committee for him or her

Chair it yourself and, recruit others with your
interest in health and medical research

Get inside the campaign and get research into
your candidate's thinking

If your candidate wins, advise your now new
officeholder on such matters

Wouldn't it be wonderful if every campaign for
every office had an advisory committee
focused on the importance of federal
funding for medical research?

It **can**. **You** can help make it happen.

Horrors! Run for office yourself!

Why let **intellectually challenged** people like
me run the country?

China, last I heard, had 8 of its top 9 leaders
scientific backgrounds

We have 3-4% of both houses of Congress with
any scientific background

Even if you don't win when you run
it's a real opportunity to get your viewpoint
before the electorate

Jon Retzlaff and AACR knows all of this.

Work with him.

All of us in the advocacy community share the same
goal.

To advance human health through medical
research.

But, as Tip O'Neill advised us, all politics is local.

Your Washington people alone can only do so much

But they don't vote for your senators or
representatives

You do, and they know it.

Some people think their elected representatives don't **listen.**

They're wrong. They do. They must or they'll be gone. Witness the last two elections.

But you have to **communicate** with them.

Finally, let me close by lobbying you on the **most important** effort that all of us can make to help NIH and all of our science and health agencies to pave the way for new and strong investments in science, technology, innovation, and research now and in the future.

What is that **one thing**?

In my judgment, it is urging the leaders and Members of Congress, the President and every member of his Administration to step up and have the courage to **put everything on the table** and work **together** to solve our deficit and debt problem

That problem is what is putting **mindless pressure** on cutting spending in the very areas where we must be investing....Innovation and technology, science and research.

Here is where, if we lose our global leadership, our children and grandchildren will pay the price

The “everything” that must be put on the table includes Medicare, Social Security, Defense spending, and our non-sensical tax system

We must **broaden** the tax base and **lower** the rate and eliminate all those provisions that creep into law.

Until we get our hands around the deficit and debt problem, the **pressure** on all non-defense discretionary spending, which includes cancer research, will build unabated.

This is so even though cuts in this area, even at 100% would not **come close** to solving our larger and long-term fiscal nightmare.

So, let's tell our elected officials: This is the time to stop **kicking the can** down the road, stop playing the **political cards**, and stop putting your **party** and **yourself** ahead of your country

This is the time to do what you were elected to do: **govern**.

I believe the American people are **ready**.

Yes, people are reluctant to offer their priorities if they are not certain others are willing to offer theirs. The polls reflect this.

But Americans realize that the **irresponsibility game** is up.

The **fiscal child abuse** must end.

Politicians are thinking they will be punished in the next election **if they do this**.

Tell them they will be punished **if they don't**.

We know that the crisis of living beyond our means is upon us.

But we must view it as an opportunity to put medical
and science research, innovation, and
technology at the **pinnacle** of our **national
priorities**

To do that, you have to **step up** and **get involved**

You have to help this country find its way
forward

A great deal is at stake for all of us

Now is the time!

Thanks for listening to me

