It has been more than ten years since the doubling of NIH was completed. We then had a new baseline for NIH that was not $13.5 billion but $27 billion.

Contemplated and expected at that time was a return to the historic rate of annual increases for NIH of 3% plus inflation.

But that did not occur because 9-11 intervened and changed our national priorities, and because of our engagement in two unnecessary, wasteful, boots-on-the-ground wars in the Middle East and tax cuts we clearly could not afford.

What happened to all discretionary spending, the type of spending that funds NIH and CDC, FDA, and AHRQ in the years after 9-11?

Funding was flat in real terms for everything except national security, defense, and related accounts.

Any increases in discretionary allocations were made to accommodate those accounts.

Perhaps, if we had asked Americans to support a tax increase to fund the wars, we wouldn't have been so keen to engage in them.

Then, of course, beginning in 2008, we have had the economic stagnation of the Great Recession.

So, we found ourselves, like many other pre-9-11 priorities and needs, limping along with decreased funding in terms of purchasing power.

Then we were hit under the Budget Control Act with ten years of allocation reductions for discretionary accounts amounting to $1 trillion and, on top of that, a mindless sequester of an additional $1.2 trillion dollars over ten years.

These cuts do not affect entitlements where 65+% of federal spending occurs, but only to discretionary or annually appropriated funds where NIH, CDC, AHRQ, PCORI, Defense Health Program, VA, NSF, NIST, DoE Science, and many other science programs are found.

So, what do we need to do---what should we do---now?

In the near term, we need to support efforts by Senator Dick Durbin and Senator Barbara Mikulski to put NIH back on a robust funding path.
Senator Durbin, our Whitehead Award winner in 2010 and the Assistant Majority Leader in the Senate, has been a steadfast leader for medical research his entire House and Senate careers.

Senator Mikulski, our Whitehead Award winner in 2012 and chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is showing the kind of leadership for science which she has always shown and for which we honored her.

Both leaders are looking at annual increases of at least 5% plus appropriate inflators to compensate for past funding stagnation and to capitalize on the potential we know exists to save lives, save money, and save our country for losing its global scientific and economic leadership.

Don’t you think Research ! America and all its advocacy partners should get behind their efforts, big time?

In the longer term, we need a strong national program to reach the American public and policymakers to raise science to a much higher national priority.

Few out there seem to connect the dots to understand that federal funding is essential to develop the foundation of knowledge which is essential for American enterprise in developing the products and therapies that make our lives longer, healthier, and happier.

There is nothing more important to our future---economically and in so many other ways---than investments in science, research, innovation, and technology.

Research ! America and its many partners in advocacy have the skills---the experience and know-how---to bring this home to America.

This is our mission and our passion, and we are working every day to make this happen.

We are, right now as we enter Research ! America’s second quarter century, embarking on what we call the Campaign for the Future.

The goal, simply put, is to equip us with the tools we need to truly bring home the value of science and innovation to America.

We are fortunate to have some of the leaders of the Campaign with us this evening.

The Chair of our Campaign for the Future is Dr. Bill Anlyan, former Chancellor of Duke University and former Chair of the board of Research ! America.
Please stand up and be recognized. Bill.

I also want to recognize the Honorary Chairs of the Campaign who are with us this evening.

Will Susan Whitehead, Ann Lurie, Dr. Herb Pardes, Dr. Louis Sullivan and Dr. Roger Perlmutter, please also stand?

Thank you all for your leadership and commitment.

The Campaign Chairs and I invite you all to join in support

Working together, we can change the outcome for science----assuring strong funding and 21st Century policies---in the years ahead.

I urge you to say yes when you hear more about the Campaign for the Future in the next months.

Thanks for listening to me.