

Doctor Gallin will be talking about rare diseases.

Well thank you Darryl. It's really been a pleasure being here, a pleasure learning about what's happened here since the last time I was here which was quite a while ago, probably 6 to 10 years ago, somewhere in that frame. And it's really been a remarkable transition. There was no clinical program when I was here before and to see what's been put together is really impressive. And I must admit I was very reassured by what I saw. I became a little nervous, these guys really have it right, you clearly do have it right. That's been really fun to see, and one of our hopes that Darryl and I chatted about, is as we look to the future, the potential for interacting between what's going on here in North Carolina and what's going on in Bethesda, it ought to be strengthened, there's got to be ways to really make a symbiotic kind of relationship.

So what I want to do today is to tell you a little bit about some of those things that are going on in the clinical center as it sits in the context of the more national picture and then focus on the second half of what I talk about. Some of my own research which will give you perhaps a picture of some of the capabilities at the facility in Washington. Some of you got a sneak look at the slide I am about to show you. One of the people I had the privilege of working with is I think the man that this room is named for. On the right, on your left, that's Marty Rodbell. Marty Rodbell, when I was scientific director of NIAID, was the scientific director here at NIEHS, and he had a daughter who lived in Bozeman, Montana, and the NIAID had a laboratory, still does, in the Bitterroot Valley in Hamilton, Montana, outside of Missoula. So Marty would take any excuse he could to get a ride to Montana and we used to go out and he would give lectures, this was before he won his Nobel Prize. He would come and give lectures out there in the labs in the Rocky Mountain laboratories. One day we were asked to go across the street to a guy's house who ran the lab there and he made us wear these great outfits. Marty was terrific.

So I'm going to cover now, some of our approaches to facilitating drug discovery, some of this you may know, but maybe some of you don't know, and you should know, and then spotlight on the importance of rare diseases. And you all know the guy in the upper left, and you probably all know or should know this article he wrote January 1st of this year in Science outlining his five opportunities as he saw them for the NIH. First, using high throughput technologies to understand fundamental biology, and to uncover the causes of specific diseases. The 2nd, translating basic science discoveries into new and better treatments. The 3rd, putting science to work for the benefit of healthcare. The 4th, encouraging a greater focus on global health. And the 5th, reinventing and empowering the biomedical research community.