

At least as far as I'm concerned it's been a great year. It's been very, very exciting, very, very demanding, but I think that we've made a difference. And I think we can show some of the benefits, in terms of our budget, and our reputation, and our recognition, and where we're moving forward.

I've spent a lot of time on the hill. I'm spending at least a day and a half to two days every other week in Bethesda, so I can make NIEHS part of NIH. Because frankly, guys, when we're out of sight, we're out of mind. So then I'm spending a lot of time, meeting with all the IC Directors, meeting with the budget people, meeting with the communications people, so that we can be an intimate and a full partner in NIH.

I've visited at least 25 different congressional offices. I'm helping to educate them about what it is that we do, how important the work that we do is. How, you can't change your genes, but you can change your environment, and that we can do a much better job of preventing disease by understanding the environmental impacts of disease.

We've also made a lot of progress in reestablishing the relationships with many of our partners and stakeholders, such as EPA, CDC, FDA, DOE, USDA, DOT.

I really want to support both individual and team science, to address both complex diseases, and complex environmental impacts. I want to continue to improve integration across research disciplines and with all of our partners. And I want to continue to improve the translation and communication of our basic science findings into human health protection.

I have to thank all of you for your hard work and your dedication that you all have provided to the NIEHS, and I really have to thank all of you for the support that you've given to me.