

**Report 60:** Advocacy

**Convener:** Nuala Moore

**Brief History:** At this time of reduced federal budgets, it is critical to increase advocacy to support NIEHS and maintain/increase federal funding.

Also a critical need to educate policymakers and the public on the importance of NIEHS's work to improve public health.

**Discussion Highlights:**

NIEHS's role in advocacy

- NIEHS cannot advocate directly but can disseminate information to advocacy organizations including the Friends of NIEHS
- Discussion of NIEHS's Office of Translation and usefulness of this information including factsheets on diseases. Conclusion that these factsheets are very effective tools for educating policymakers.
- Friends of NIEHS and other organizations can use NIEHS's research findings and information to educate/lobby policymakers
- With advocacy restrictions, how can NIEHS advocate for the best science?
- Long discussion of the need for NIEHS to build relationships with other federal agencies such as Dept. of Trans. so that these agencies follow science in their policy

**Recommendations:**

- 1) NIEHS should continue to build relationships with organizations such as the Friends of NIEHS, healthcare assoc., etc to disseminate their public health research findings.
- 2) NIEHS should be a spokesperson for environmental health science.
- 3) NIEHS should find new ways to disseminate science to regulatory agencies, including EPA, OSHA and others.
- 4) NIEHS should continue to do policy-relevant research
- 5) NIEHS should seek ways to build relationships and an ongoing forum with other federal agencies (such as Dept. of Transportation) that are/should be impacted by NIEHS's research in order to achieve better policy practice results.
- 6) Require industry to contribute to an emergency fund for new environmental threats, to include supplements to environmental health centers.

**Discussion Participants:** John Balbus, John Bucher, Lisa Conti, John Froines, Joe Graedon, Andrea Hricko, Paul Jung, Martha Nolan, Jennifer Sass, Kristina Thayer