Communicating with the Congress:
For Better, For Worse, For Richer, For Poorer, To Prevent Sickness and Improve Health

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"YOU MEAN ME, HARRY?"
Agency Activities Require:

- A law authorizing the activity
- A law providing money to pay for it
Committees with Responsibility for NIEHS

• Authorizing
  – House Energy & Commerce
  – Senate Help, Education, Labor & Pensions

• Appropriating
  – House/Senate Labor, HHS, ED
  – House/Senate Interior, Environment
  – House/Senate Energy & Water
Working with Congress

• Have a positive attitude about politics

• Appreciate the need for compromise and tradeoffs

• Keep the congressional calendar in mind

• Perform good intelligence gathering in advance

• Keep the message simple—no alphabet soup or technical jargon
Working with Congress

- Committee staff are likely to be older and more legislation oriented and technically informed
- Personal staff are likely to be younger and more member-district-state oriented
- Don’t forget the office back home
- Don’t underestimate the role of staff
In the meeting

• Be focused and clear about what is needed

• Be concise

• Get your request on table right away

• Talk about science as a source of new information that can contribute to everyone’s well-being, i.e., our health, happiness, and prosperity

• Use concrete examples of the value of research

• Invite member/staff to visit
Politics is Important to Science & Technology
Science & Technology are important to Politics
Get involved!