**EAT AND ADVOCATE GUIDE**

Once attendee enters, they will be greeted by Greeter and can get breakfast. Greeter will point to available point people.

Point person

* 1. Introduce yourself
  2. Ask how they are doing, anything they’d like to say before starting.
  3. Ask about their own history with science research. Any family connections, etc.
  4. Ask their current address and zipcode to find their congressional representatives.
  5. Ask their family address and zipcode for another set of representatives.
  6. Ask how they want to contact their reps – tweet, call, or email. Explain restrictions of all three. In general, do NOT use JHU accounts. We cannot speak for Hopkins.
     + **Tweet:** anyone can tweet to anyone else, so no restrictions on citizenship, and less so on constituency. Free to tweet congressional leaders.
     + **Email:** you must be a voting constituent to email congresspeople. Emails also go through their website. Or utilize the R!A website for ease.
     + **Call:** Can call congresspeople representing where they grew up, or current representatives.

**For representatives of families:**

* “I grew up in your district”
* “My family is from your district, and biomedical research affects them xyz”

**Note for contacting Maryland representatives and other progressive representatives:**

Thank them for being so supportive of science research! Remind them of the importance of science research and its economic impact in Maryland. Goodwill goes a long way.

* Thank you for supporting science research! We appreciate your dedication to increase science innovation and scientific breakthroughs.
* We urge you to keep fighting for science research to further scientific knowledge, treating disease, and saving lives.

**Maryland-specific numbers**

* 1.735$ billion of NIH money goes to Maryland.
* 151 Maryland institutions funded by NIH with 2,548 grants in 2015.
* Maryland received $39 million in NIH grants in 2015 to train the next generation of innovative scientists.
* A total of 104 Maryland businesses received NIH funding totaling $650 million for the research and development of technologies with potential commercial applications.
* In 2012, Maryland was home to 1,963 bioscience business establishments. Residents held 33,981 bioscience industry jobs.

**Suggested Tweets and Talking Points**

**I. General points**

* *Think about your story. How has science research impacted you, your loved ones, and your community? Condense it into 140 characters, or expand in an email or phone call.*
* To address the health challenges of an aging and diverse population, America needs more investment in medical research.
* Continued support for biomedical research is key to new avenues of research, new early screenings devices and new treatments for disease.
* Discovery and innovation work best when funding is predictable and stable.
* 19% funding capacity has been lost between 2003 and 2016 due to budget cuts and sequestration.

**II.  NIH funding enhances the health and well-being of all Americans through new treatments and cures**.

* In 1950, a child born with heart defect had 80% chance of dying. Today, most children with complex heart defects thrive thanks to the NIH.
* U.S. cancer death rates are falling about 1% each year, with each 1% decline saving $500 billion.
* We can design drugs that go right to the vulnerable target of a disorder, thanks to the research produced from the Human Genome Project.

**III.  Funding for NIH and the NSF strengthens the U.S. economy.**

* Every $1 of NIH funding generates about $2.21 in local economic growth.
* NIH and NSF funding forms key foundations for innovation and industries like biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and more.
* More than 80% of the NIH’s funding is awarded to 430,000+ researchers at 2,800+ universities, medical schools, and other institutions.
* Over 2,000 small business ventures are funded by @NIH through the Small Business Innovation Research program.

**IV.  Flat funding of the NIH puts a generation of science and scientists at risk**

* Funding for NIH grants have decreased, particularly for first time applicants. Only 18% are funded. We are losing young investigators!
* Young investigators bring energy, creativity, enthusiasm to science research. Support their new ideas and cutting edge discoveries.

**V.  Our standing as the world leader in biomedical research will be compromised.**

* The United States is at the forefront of the life sciences revolution only by robust and sustained investment to the NIH.
* U.S. government’s investment in life sciences research is barely half of China’s.
* Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Japan, Norway, Sweden have significantly increased in their government support for medical-science R&D.
* The U.K. is expanding its investments in biomedical research, even in the face of daunting deficits.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| #FundScience | @NIH |  | House speaker | @SpeakerRyan |
| #CuresNow | @NSF |  | House dem leader | @NancyPelosi |
| #Innovation | @WhiteHouse |  | Senate leader | @McConnellPress |
| #ScienceResearch | @WhiteHouseOSTP |  | Senate dem leader | @SenatorReid |
|  |  |  | Appropriations Majority | @HouseAppropsGOP |
|  |  |  | Appropriations Minority | @AppropsDems |

**Suggested Email for Cures Act**

As your constituent, I urge you to stand up and fight for what is right. Patients here at home and across the nation are suffering from deadly and disabling diseases with no adequate treatments or cures to combat them.

You can change that.

The House and Senate have demonstrated a bipartisan commitment to modernizing our nation’s medical discovery, development and delivery system, but the Cures legislation has not yet crossed the finish line. I am joining with advocates across the country in urging Congress to get the job done this year.

I believe that defeating diseases like cancer, diabetes and Alzheimer's should be a top priority for every member of Congress. This legislation will speed solutions to patients who need them, and it will save lives.

If you help champion Cures, our nation can be better equipped to fight for the lives of patients. No priority is more important than that.

Thank you for considering my views.

[signed]

**Suggested Email for Science Advocacy**

My name is [name] and, as your constituent, I urge you to support biomedical science research and NIH funding.

*[State your background – be brief and concise. Include what town you’re from, where you are a researcher, your primary focus, and a one-line summary of your current research.]*

Choose 3-5 points from above suggested talking points to discuss. Also can discuss how the biomedical research has impacted you and your loved ones directly.

Thank you for considering my views.

[signed]

**Suggest Phone Script for Cures Act**

- Call number

- Ask for health legislative assistant

- Discuss talking points:

* Point 1: Hello, my name is [FULL NAME], and I urge you to ensure the passage of Cures legislation in November.
* Point 2*: [State your background – be brief and concise. Include what town you’re from, where you are a researcher, your primary focus, and a one-line summary of your current research.]*
* Point 3: Cures legislation accelerates medical progress and research discoveries, including potential novel diagnostic methods, treatments, and cures - researchers across the nation will benefit from the enactment of this bill. In turn, basic research discoveries will foster life-saving advancements that will lift the health of our nation.
* Point 4: The purchasing power of the National Institutes of Health, the agency that conducts the majority of basic medical research in the U.S., has been cut by almost 25% in the last decade, greatly hindering its capabilities. This is not acceptable.
* Point 5: Thank you for your dedication to your constituents and their health. I appreciate the HELP Committee’s work to advance Cures-related bills. But I ask you now to ensure a full Senate vote before the end of the year and to approve Cures legislation.
* Point 6: Thank you for your time and for considering my views.

**Suggest Phone Script for Science Advocacy**

- Call number

- Ask for health legislative assistant

- Discuss talking points:

* Point 1: Hello, my name is [FULL NAME], and I am calling to urge you to support biomedical science research and NIH funding.
* Point 2*: [State your background – be brief and concise. Include what town you’re from, where you are a researcher, your primary focus, and a one-line summary of your current research.]*
* Choose 3-5 points from above suggested talking points to discuss. Also can discuss how the biomedical research has impacted you and your loved ones directly.
* Point 6: Thank you for your time and for considering my views.