

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF IMMUNOLOGISTS

Welcome, everyone, and thanks for joining us for this 25th

how hard you all work, and we know the very important issues that are at stake. We know that you have long advocated for increased, predictable funding for NIH. From the early 1970s through today, you have addressed issues including the NIH budget doubling, the infusion of new funding, cuts from sequestration, and the ongoing budget erosion caused by biomedical inflation. And you have explained clearly and cogently what we, as scientists, need in order to work and ensure a robust biomedical research enterprise.

Now that one of your most recent fights – and it was an aggressive one - was over the loss of funding. So we were all relieved – and happy - to see, just a week ago, a new solution from a serious problem that has really been devastating our community.

On so many bread and butter policy issues, we know you have worked diligently and creatively to support more AAI members in public affairs – with increased Hill visits; our new Public Policy Fellows program for early career scientists, and ongoing dialogue with leaders at NIH and other federal agencies.

As you know, what I can tell, you seem to have a lot of fun doing what you do. The line of people wanting to serve AAI public affairs is a long one, and it is filled with dedicated members who find the time and energy to care and to help. For this, and on behalf of all AAI members, I thank you, wish you the best, and hope you enjoy this marvelous celebration tonight.

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