Thinking Outside the Lab

A look into my time with the U.S. House of Representatives

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About Me
The Legislative Process and some Definitions

Step 1:
A bill is written

Step 2:
Bill is referred to committee

Step 3:
Committee holds markups and hearings

Step 4:
Bill goes to the House floor

- Each member of Congress typically serves on three to five committees and specializes within these committees by serving on subcommittees.
- A *markup* is where the Committee debates, amends, or rewrites legislation.
- A *hearing* is where the Committee collects and analyzes information from a panel of expert witnesses.
- Almost 7,000 bills are introduced each session and an average of 750 pass. Over 90% of bills fail at the committee level.
Science Policy: the 5 W’s and a H

• **Who?** All of us. Yes, that means you.
• **What?** Responsible participation in the policy process that connects your membership in the scientific community to your membership in our democracy.
• **When?** Now! No need to be at a certain point in your career or education.
• **Where?** At the local, state, and federal levels.
• **Why?** Congress makes funding decisions that directly impact researchers and many science advancements contribute to policy issues.
• **How?** Be personal- share your story and voice about why science is needed.

*“It has been basic United States policy that Government should foster the opening of new frontiers... and that new frontiers shall be made accessible for development by all American citizens.”* - Vannevar Bush 1945
The Energy and Commerce Committee

The oldest standing legislative committee in the House

- Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade
- Communications and Technology
- Energy and Power
- Health
- Environment and Economy
- Oversight
The Daily Grind

- Attend hearings and briefings
- Write memos for staffers
- Prepare questions for members of Congress to ask during hearings
- Collect database of Medicare stories for future use
- Read draft bills
Think Tank Research Assignment

Scientists can create malaria-proof mosquitoes – but is the world ready?

Autonomous Vehicle Technology
A Guide for Policymakers

Regulating Drone Airspace Using 'Smart Markets'

FOOD ACCESS
The farming of the future looks nothing like it does today.

ENERGY
How Can Political Parties Agree on Energy Policy?
Congressssss’s… out… for summer!
Highlights

After Breakfast with Dr. John Mather and Representative Bill Foster

Paul Ryan’s selfie with Hill interns
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