



BE AN ADVOCATE FOR SCIENCE

Take Your Senators and Representative to Work

A tour of your laboratory is an excellent way to introduce your Member of Congress to the important federally funded biomedical research being done by his or her constituents.

All too often, public officials have never been in a scientific laboratory and do not understand what is done there and how this work is impacted by federal funding. It is also a great way for you and your colleagues to meet your Representative.

How to Arrange a Visit

Send your letter of invitation to the attention of the office scheduler. Be very flexible in suggesting dates and times for a visit. Members of Congress spend a majority of each week in Washington, D.C., but are often in their home districts to meet constituents Friday through Monday. You may also want to suggest a visit during one of the Congressional recesses that occur at various times through the year.

What to Do on the Tour

- Provide a basic understanding of the work done in the lab - in layperson's language.
- Describe the potential economic, therapeutic, or preventative benefits of your research.
- If possible, include interesting visuals of the work you are describing.

Set aside time separate from the tour for the representative to meet with a cross-section of people in the lab (administrative staff, lab techs, students, postdocs, senior researchers, and the PI) to discuss their work and the role federal funding plays in supporting their research and training.

What if They Say No

Don't be disheartened. Congressional offices receive hundreds of invitations for the limited periods of time they are in their home district. If your Representative or Senator is unable to come for a tour, extend a similar invitation to a member of his/her staff. Staff members are well informed and play critical roles in helping Members of Congress shape their positions on various issues.

After the Tour

- Send a letter thanking your guest for his/her visit.
- Share your experiences with friends and colleagues.
- Report on their visit on social media.