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>> Well good morning. It really is a great pleasure to be here with you all at NIEHS. I've been looking forward to the chance to meet with this council and engage in some conversation about where research is going in environmental health science. It has been nine months since I was asked to step into this building one role on the Bethesda campus as the NIH Director. One was of my goals was to try to go around a bit and find out whats happening in many of the institutes that I knew somewhat, from having been at NIH for 17 years, but now need to know in a different capacity as the NIH Director. I am delighted it has been possible to come here and spend some time with the remarkable scientists and leaders that are here at NIEHS. I was here yesterday for a little more than half of the day, and gave a talk in this room to a all-hands meeting. Filling some of the information out about what we see as potentially, exceptionally, exciting biomedical research opportunities right now across the whole landscape of biomedical research, as well as pointing to some highlighted issues that I thought were particularly likely to be of interest to those working in this institute. I had some time for questions afterwards. Also got a nice tour yesterday morning of some of the intermural facilities, some of the imaging capabilities, the animal facility, and talked to a few scientists who were doing really interesting projects, and also had a chance to meet with Linda and her senior staff. So we had a good day yesterday. I'm glad to be back today. I spent yesterday afternoon at Duke CTSA, which I know you have connections with. After council discussions this morning, I'm headed over to UNC to visit with their CTSA, cause the clinical and translational science awards are a big part of the NIH's investment now in clinical research and I'm trying to get a sense of how thats going, in terms of how these various capabilities are shaping up.

>> I should have said I was also given the chance to tour your clinical research unit yesterday. And to see the wonderful facility that exists there now, and all the potential that offers for doing clinical research here on this campus. So it's great to see all of that vision taking shape. I know Linda is in the midst of doing a lot of recruiting of senior staff. Going around the table, I was thinking, boy you could have a whole Shakespeare play here with all the number of people who were acting, but I know that's a high priority to find and identify really wonderful leaders to come in and take on those roles. I guess I should extend my gratitude to the people who are in those acting positions. Because that's never an easy spot to be in and your dedicated service to the public is much appreciated.