

**Opening Statement**  
**The Honorable Adrian Smith, Ranking Member**  
Subcommittee on Technology and Innovation  
Committee on Science and Technology  
U.S. House of Representatives

*How Can NIST Better Serve the Needs of the Biomedical Research Community in the  
21st Century?*

February 24, 2010

Thank you, Chairman Wu, for calling today's hearing to examine ways in which the National Institute of Standards and Technology can better serve the needs of biomedical researchers.

At our first hearing on this topic, last September, we had the opportunity to hear from NIST and the Food and Drug Administration regarding what they believed to be their appropriate roles in supporting biomedical research and about new initiatives NIST would like to implement to support this rapidly advancing field of research.

It is clear from past experience there is a constructive role for NIST to play as a standards-setting body in biomedical research. Past advances by NIST have improved the accuracy and comparability of medical research and testing in numerous fields, and as diagnoses and treatments become more and more individualized, the need for such criteria will only increase.

As we work to ensure NIST's authorization meets the evolving needs of the biomedical research community, we must also remain mindful of our responsibility to ensure NIST's standardization efforts enhance and ease ongoing research, but do not replace it. Although this has not often been an issue, we would be remiss to not continue monitoring this concern.

We must also address how expanded activities at NIST will be funded. One idea discussed at our last hearing was whether benefitting agencies such as FDA and NIH should fund NIST's work in these areas from their budgets. Although shifting funding from these agencies to NIST may appear less than ideal, if NIST's work catalyzes these agencies efforts, it may be an option worthy of pursuit, as such arrangements are not without precedent.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman. I am looking forward to a constructive session with today's witnesses and I yield back the balance of my time.