

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton
Subcommittee on Health
21st Century Cures Roundtable on Personalized Medicine
July 23, 2014**

(As Prepared for Delivery)

Today we continue our tremendous bipartisan efforts on the 21st Century Cures initiative by holding this roundtable on Personalized Medicine.

Yesterday we held the sixth Health Subcommittee hearing and today marks the third roundtable on the 21st Century Cures initiative. As we head into August, I'm proud to report that these roundtables will continue back in our districts where we will hear about how American innovation has touched the lives of our constituents by providing hope, saving lives, and creating jobs.

21st Century Cures touches all Americans as they, their families, or their friends have been affected by disease. Through our work on this initiative, we have found that much hard work remains to finding and delivering cures and treatments for the approximately 95% of diseases without them. But we've also seen an outpouring of support and enthusiasm to work together and achieve this common goal.

We also know that every patient is different and that we need to foster innovation to better understand those differences and find the best treatments for each patient. We have learned throughout 21st Century Cures that science and technology available today make it possible to create treatments at the molecular level. Today we have a distinguished group of participants to help us understand what more we can do to support the rise of personalized medicine and the development of better cures and treatments for patients.

Joining us today we have:

- Jeff Shuren from FDA, who has been at each of our three Cures roundtables
- Rich Moscicki also from FDA
- Louis J. DeGennaro from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- Andrew Futreal from MD Anderson
- Susanne B. Haga from Duke University Health System
- Sean Bohlen from Genentech
- Franklin Cockerill from Mayo Clinic
- Patrick T. O'Gara from the American College of Cardiology
- Patrick Groody from Abbott Molecular
- Edward Abrahams from Personalized Medicine Coalition
- Martin Naley from Apple Tree Partners
- Laura Koontz from Ovarian Cancer Society

The discussion today will center on personalized medicine, and we need to hear from our participants as much as possible. I approach this discussion – and I think my fellow members of the committee will do the same – recognizing that the participants are the experts and guests. This roundtable is an opportunity to listen and learn. To that end, while we may want to ask the experts some questions to guide the conversation, let's keep our talking to a minimum. I'd also ask the participants to keep their answers to about a minute so we can keep the conversation moving.

In closing, I want to thank those folks who have offered their input on our 21st Century Cures initiative. I can't tell you how much we appreciate the thoughtful contributions, especially from Americans who might not ordinarily be joining a policy debate in Washington. Please continue to share your ideas with cures@mail.house.gov.

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