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**Peter B. Corr, Vice Chairman, NY Academy of Sciences
Shanghai Welcoming Remarks -**

Thank you, Ellis. I am very pleased and proud to be here with such a distinguished group of scientists and dignitaries...

On behalf of the board of governors of the New York Academy of Sciences, I welcome you to what promises to be a stimulating conference.

I'm also speaking on behalf of the Academy's Chairman, Dr. Torsten Wiesel,

who happens to be one of the many Nobel laureates we count as members...

At 81 years of age, Dr. Wiesel was not up to making the long trip after being in China only a month ago, and he sends his very best wishes.

(pause)

All of the Academy's governors believe that this gathering is a landmark event that can lead to important dialogue among our scientists -- and perhaps even launch a new era of cooperation and partnership.

This is especially true for the young scientists and students here today who personify the bright promise of China's future....

Your intellectual curiosity, vitality and spirit of cooperation will benefit not only the citizens of China, but all peoples of the world, for decades to come.

This international perspective is not new for the New York Academy. We have been globally focused since our founding in 1817. You might say, it's in our DNA!

In fact, more than 24,000 members of the New York Academy come from 140 countries. And we're proud to say that our President's Council includes 20 Nobel laureates.

Historically, our membership has included such leading lights of science as Charles Darwin, Louis Pasteur and Albert Einstein...as well as two American presidents, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe.

Based on this strong tradition, we strive today to be a haven for cross-cultural discussions and coalition building...

Among the many international scientists and institutions that we're proud to call Academy members, we are particularly honored to include Dr. Zhou Guangzhao, the world-renowned scientist and chairman of the Chinese Association of Science and Technology.

(Pause)

In many ways, it's fitting that we gather today in Shanghai, a remarkable city with two monumental bridges -- the Nanpu Bridge and the Yangpu Bridge.

Not only do these two imposing, world-class structures bring together large sections of the city, they also reflect the promise of China today – with powerful scientific and technological capabilities rising from a rich and proud culture and a long history of achievement.

In the years ahead, this dynamic environment will certainly help spawn innovative medicines and technologies that will meet future healthcare needs here and around the world...

But I'm also convinced that true innovation today cannot be accomplished by a single entity. It can only come from vital partnerships across borders and scientific and medical disciplines...

So the great bridges of Shanghai are also a perfect metaphor for this gathering...

...bringing together biomedical communities that stretch across vast oceans and many miles...

... bringing together the skills and talents of people from different regions and different countries...

...and bringing together new ideas and varied points of view...

... all in the spirit of friendship and collaboration.

Let me close by expressing my thanks and appreciation to the Chinese Academy of Science, and all our partners and sponsors, for making this event possible.

I look forward to a great conversation.

Thank you.