Top Ten Things to Know
Fundamental Cardiovascular Research: Returns on Societal Investment

1. Although cardiovascular mortality has declined, projections estimate that by 2030, more than 40% of the US population will have heart failure or other cardiovascular diseases, with costs exceeding $1 trillion.

2. Society has gained enormous benefit from investing in basic cardiovascular research however there is an unprecedented decline in funding, with NIH funding resembling in real dollars those of 2001.

3. Limited awareness of the benefits of basic biomedical research and a reduced sense of urgency among the public, policy makers and lawmakers is contributing to the decline in societal investment.

4. A challenge to clearly articulating return on research investment starts with assigning monetary value to a year of human life, thus creating challenges to absolute quantification.

5. Fundamental cardiovascular research has yielded drug discoveries and facilitated the development of lifesaving devices and strategies for prevention, diagnosis and therapy.

6. This statement also covers the substantial economic benefits of fundamental cardiovascular research.

7. US has led the world in fundamental research and education, however this lead has eroded as the investment has declined in the US while increasing in other countries around the world.

8. Inadequate investment in fundamental cardiovascular research will halt or slow the pace of new discoveries and the development of new therapies while also squeezing the pipeline of specialists trained and equipped to conduct such research.

9. Considering the unprecedented decline in research funding faced, this statement is a timely reinforcement on the case for continued investment in the fundamental research.

10. This statement encourages the biomedical research community to define, quantify and articulate effectively the many societal benefits of investing in basic research.