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China and India: A New Sputnik? Federal Funding of Physical Sciences Research

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Federal funding for the physical sciences has been stagnant for many decades, hindering scientific progress in many regards. Meanwhile, in the last decade, countries like China and India have made huge strides in improving their science and technology infrastructure, to the extent that U.S. leadership in many scientific fields is, or will soon be, challenged. The United States is also losing high-tech market share and jobs. Just as Sputnik jolted the U.S. into action 50 years ago, many believe that the current challenges require a Sputnik-like response. The American Physical Society is working hard to convince Members of Congress and the Administration to increase science research funding. In this talk, I will discuss challenges to U.S. science leadership and the APS advocacy. I will also address whether physicists can have an impact in Washington.