Since 2015, AEVR has hosted more than 120 early-stage investigators on Capitol Hill. Summaries of the 2015-2018 events—including brief documentary videos—are posted at www.eyeresearch.org

The 20 early-stage investigators—reflecting the breadth of basic and clinical vision research and who have not yet received their first investigator-initiated (R01) grant from the NIH or NEI—displayed posters of their research in an evening Congressional Reception and provided on-camera interviews about their research for a documentary video. Both the educational and advocacy activities were built around one question—“How will the breakthrough research being conducted by these EVSs prevent, delay, and treat vision disorders—which will grow to an annual United States cost burden of $717 billion in inflation-adjusted dollars by year 2050, as projected by Prevent Blindness in its 2014 study entitled The Future of Vision: Forecasting the Prevalence and Costs of Vision Problems.

A number of the EVSs presented research into therapies and technologies that are in development by a team in which they participate at their academic institution led by an NEI-funded Principal Investigator. The posters not only described the research, but also presented “public health” data about the incidence/impact of the disease and its cost as a means to fully explain benefit of the research investment.

Dr. Lee hosted a brief program that included comments from Michael Steinmetz, PhD, NEI’s Director of Extramural Science Programs, who described the Institute’s commitment to the next generation of vision scientists. He was joined by NEI’s Shefa Gordon, PhD and Nora Wong, MPH from NEI’s Office of Program Planning and Analysis and Dustin Hays from NEI’s Office of Communications. The NEI team visited each poster and spoke with the researchers, as did Dr. Lee and Dr. Hofland. Cong. Scott DesJarlais, MD (R-TN) and Cong. Steve Cohen (D-TN) visited the posters after also attending AEVR’s AMD Congressional Briefing earlier that day.

The class of the Fifth Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day who participated in the AEVR and NAEVR events reflecting the breadth of breakthrough vision research and were nominated by their Departments of Ophthalmology or Schools/Colleges of Optometry from across the nation.

- Stephanie Adams, OD, PhD
- Ava Bittner, OD, PhD
- Kinga Bujakowska, PhD
- Florence Cabot, MD
- Vicki Chen, MD
- Daniel Coates, PhD
- Ross Collery, PhD
- Susana da Silva, PhD
- Irina De La Huerta, MD, PhD
- Abigail Fahim, MD, PhD
- Muneeb Faiq, PhD
- Ian Han, MD
- Lynn Hassman, MD, PhD
- Ajay Kunyan, MD
- Jesson Martin, PhD
- Sangeetha Metlapally, PhD
- Sumit Sharma, MD
- Jessica Steen, OD
- An-Jey Su, PhD
- Jia Yin, MD, PhD
- (Illinois College of Optometry)
- (UCLA/Stein Eye)
- (Mass Eye & Ear/Harvard Medical School)
- (University of Miami/Bascom Palmer)
- (Tufts Medical Center)
- (University of Houston College of Optometry)
- (Medical College of Wisconsin)
- (University of Pittsburgh)
- (Vanderbilt University)
- (University of Michigan)
- (NYU/Langone)
- (University of Iowa)
- (Washington University)
- (Flaum Eye/University of Rochester)
- (Kentucky College of Optometry)
- (New England College of Optometry)
- (Cleveland Clinic/Cole Eye Institute)
- (NOVA Southeastern College of Optometry)
- (University of Colorado)
- (Mass Eye & Ear/Harvard Medical School)