



SPRING/SUMMER 2022

CONTRIBUTOR REPORT

National Alliance For Eye And Vision Research | Alliance For Eye and Vision Research

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SIGNIFICANT FOCUS ON NIH AND ARPA-H IN FY2023 FUNDING

Over the last several months, NAEVR advocacy efforts have focused on appropriations funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and specifically the National Eye Institute (NEI). AEVR has continued to provide educational briefings that have raised awareness about vision conditions and the value of research to better treat, cure, and prevent the causes of vision impairment and loss.

Following the Administration's release of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget request at the end of March, the House and Senate have been busy. Starting in May the House and Senate conducted hearings about funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the House advanced legislation authorizing ARPA-H in June, appropriations bills allocating funding for FY2023 were drafted, and the House completed their mark in June on the Labor, Health, and Human Services (LHHS) appropriations bill with the Senate releasing their draft report in July, (see *Legislative Update* inside).

The May hearings of the House and Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittees included testimony and answers from Lawrence Tabak, DDS, PhD, serving as Acting Director of the NIH, and included directors of several other large institutes including the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), National Institute on Mental Health (NIMH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). The hearings included bipartisan support for the work being done at NIH with a particular focus on ARPA-H and a shared interest in ARPA-H funding being supplemental to NIH base funding.

NAEVR has been engaged with appropriators in both the House and Senate since the start of the FY2023 appropriations process. Prior to the hearings, NAEVR provided written testimony in May for the Committee's review which highlighted the value of vision research and the importance of the NEI while emphasizing the need for additional base funding and why ARPA-H funding should be supplemental to, not supplanting the investment in NIH.

In addition to NAEVR's advocacy work, AEVR has continued to educate about the value of federally funded vision research through its *Research Saving Sight, Restoring Vision* Initiative. You'll find summaries of AEVR's May Diabetic Retinopathy Briefing, and July Dry Eye Briefing later in this report. Serving as "Friends of the NEI," the Alliances highlighted the significant work that is being done and can continue to be built on with appropriate federal investment in vision research.

On behalf of the Boards, and in working with Dan Ignaszewski as the Alliances Executive Director, we look forward to working with you this fall as the Alliances identifies new ways to maximize the impact of the organizations while providing exceptional value and member engagement opportunities. Thank you for all your continued support.

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AEVR Announces Return to In-Person Events

September 21
AEVR AMD Congressional Briefing,
Washington, DC

AEVR Emerging Vision Scientist Program Day
on Capitol Hill

September 22
NAEVR Emerging Vision Scientist Advocacy Day