CDMRP Vision Manager Speaks at NAEVR Session at ARVO

At NAEVR’s April 29 Defense-Related Vision Research Opportunities session at the ARVO Annual Meeting in Vancouver, DOD Vision Research Program (VRP) Manager Q. Tian Wang, PhD, spoke about the VRP’s history and priorities, the VRP Program Committee’s recently selected FY2018 awards, and the then-impending FY2019 Program Announcements. Dr. Wang emphasized that, unlike the NIH grant review process, the CDMRP uses a two-tier review process—Peer Review first for scientific merit, and then Programmatic Review for military relevance, especially that which responds to DOD-identified research gaps listed in the Program Announcements.

Subsequent to the session, Dr. Wang let NAEVR know that a new DOD-NEI Vision Research Collaborative (VRC) agreement will enable additional FY2018 VRP projects to be funded which were originally on the alternates list—although the exact number is not finalized. The VRC will also be in effect for the FY2019 funding cycle, meaning that the NEI will again have the option to fund high-scoring grants that cannot be funded due to limitations on VRP funding.

In addition to her appearance at NAEVR’s session, Dr. Wang, along with VRP Science Officer Marc Mitchell, attended the ARVO Annual Meeting sessions and met one-on-one with researchers from Sunday through Wednesday at a dedicated CDMRP booth. These meetings allowed researchers to discuss their ideas for projects and gauge the potential interest of the VRP.

A link to the three Program Announcements as well as a synopsis of all three funding mechanisms is available on the CDMRP Web site.