

DEFENSE VISION FUNDING

Since it was created by Congress in FY2009 in Defense appropriations through NAEVR advocacy, the Department of Defense's (DOD) Peer Reviewed Vision Research Program (VRP) within the Congressionally-directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) has awarded 75 grants totaling \$63 million through late October 2016. Current funding status is as follows:

2015/2016: The US Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA) and CDMRP are in the process of finalizing awards and are expected to issue \$18.4 million from this combined funding cycle. As of late October 2016, eight FY2015/16 awards have been issued for a total of the \$13.2 million, which are included in the total above.

2017: As with FY2017 NIH/NEI funding, FY2017 DOD funding has not been finalized and is currently subject to the Continuing Resolution. In May, the House Appropriations Committee passed its FY2017 Defense bill, which includes \$15 million for the VRP—\$5 million greater than in FY2016 and the first time at that increased level. The Senate Appropriations Committee also passed its bill in June without VRP funding. Traditionally the House takes the lead in funding many DOD Defense Health Programs and the Senate defers to its priorities when the bills are conferenced.

Visit the Defense-related Vision Research section of NAEVR's Web site at www.eyerresearch.org for details



NAEVR Supports BVA Annual Meeting with Research Speaker

In August, NAEVR member and VRP advocacy partner Blinded Veterans Association (BVA) held its National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. NAEVR was pleased to work with Medical College of Wisconsin Ophthalmology Chair Dale Heuer, M.D. in securing Thomas Connor, Jr., M.D., who spoke about his research on retinal diseases.



Colonel Donald Gagliano, M.D., President of Global Medical Innovation and former Director of the Joint DOD/VA Vision Center of Excellence, with Thomas Connor, Jr., M.D. (Medical College of Wisconsin) at the BVA National Convention.

WSD Briefing Sponsors included:

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WSD CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

World Sight Day Congressional Briefing Focuses on NASEM Report

On October 13, VISION 2020 USA's *World Sight Day 2016* Congressional Briefing focused on educating staff about the NASEM report's nine recommendations to transform vision impairments from common to rare and eliminate correctable and avoidable vision impairments in the U.S. by year 2030.



From left: Speakers included Meg McCoy, J.D., M.P.H., (NASEM), Eve Higginbotham, M.D. (Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania) and Lori Grover, O.D., Ph.D. (King-Devick Test, Inc.). Dr. Higginbotham and Dr. Grover served on the Study Committee, while Ms. McCoy served as Study Director.



From left: Greg Chavez (The Vision Council), AEVR Executive Director James Jorkasky, and Rodney Peele, J.D. (American Optometric Association)



From left: VISION 2020 USA Chair Jeff Todd, J.D. (Prevent Blindness) with Ali Manson (American Optometric Association) and Lester Marks (Lighthouse Guild)