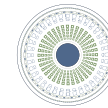


# AEVR's Third Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day on Capitol Hill



The class of the *Third Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day* (see names in box below) who participated in the AEVR and NAEVR events reflecting the breadth of breakthrough vision research who were nominated by their Departments of Ophthalmology or Schools/Colleges of Optometry from across the nation



**DECADE OF VISION**  
2010-2020  
an initiative of the  
Alliance For Eye And Vision Research

## EVSS Educate About Research to Reduce Burden of Eye Disease

On September 13, AEVR's *Decade of Vision 2010-2020 Initiative* hosted its Third Annual *Emerging Vision Scientists (EVS) Day on Capitol Hill*, which was supported by a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB). The event, held during *Healthy Vision Month and International Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Awareness Week 2017*, was concurrent with the fifth annual *Rally for Medical Research Advocacy Day* (see box next page).

These 18 young 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/NEI—attended AEVR's annual AMD Congressional Briefing and displayed posters of their research in an evening Congressional Reception. On September 14 and under the auspices of NAEVR, they visited their Congressional delegation offices.

## AEVR EVS Poster Reception

In addition to the poster display, AEVR President Dr. Peter McDonnell hosted a brief evening program at which NEI Deputy Director Belinda Seto, PhD offered a welcome, discussed the NIH/NEI commitment to early-stage investigators, and visited each poster. Dr. Seto was accompanied by Shefa Gordon, PhD, Acting Director of the Office of Program Planning and Analysis, and Maria Zacharias, Director of the Office of Science Communications, Public Liaison, and Education.



Cong. Bill Foster, PhD (D-IL), a physicist, speaks with Asim Farooq, MD (University of Chicago) about his research into the visual consequences of graft-versus-host disease in patients undergoing stem cell transplantation



Mona Kaleem, MD (University of Maryland) speaks with Vernon Simms from the office of Cong. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) about her research into barriers to accessing vision rehabilitation among visually impaired glaucoma patients

- Mohamed Abou Shousha, MD** (Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/University of Miami)
- George Asimellis, PhD** (Kentucky College of Optometry, University of Pikeville)
- Hua Bi, OD, PhD** (Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry)
- Leah Byrne, PhD** (University of Pittsburgh)
- Shannon Conley, PhD** (University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center)
- Asim Farooq, MD** (University of Chicago)
- Sapna Gangaputra, MD** (Vanderbilt Eye Institute)
- Elise Harb, OD** (UC Berkeley School of Optometry)
- Mona Kaleem, MD** (University of Maryland)
- Heather Livengood, PhD** (New York University)
- Rose Pasquale, BS** (SUNY Upstate)
- Rebecca Pfeiffer, PhD** (Moran Eye Center/University of Utah)
- James Rogala, OD** (Kentucky College of Optometry, University of Pikeville)
- Hajirah Saeed, MD** (Mass Eye & Ear/Harvard)
- Patrick Scott, OD, PhD** (University of Louisville)
- Dean VanNasdale, OD, PhD** (Ohio State College of Optometry)
- Natalia Vergara, PhD** (University of Colorado)
- Xiaohua (Elsa) Zhuang, PhD** (Illinois College of Optometry)



Event sponsor RPB President Brian Hoffland, PhD (right) with Dr. Belinda Seto

Since 2015, and between both the dedicated *EVS Day* and *EVS Track* at the annual ARVO Annual Meeting Planning Committee Advocacy Day, AEVR has hosted more than 80 early-stage investigators on Capitol Hill. Summaries of the 2015 and 2016 events—including brief documentary videos—are posted on the Web site at [www.eyerresearch.org](http://www.eyerresearch.org).