NEI research is responding to the nation's top public health challenges, including the impact of aging, chronic diseases and their co-morbidities, and health disparities, as identified by NIH Director, Elias Zerhouni, M.D. In that regard, NEI works collaboratively with other NIH Institutes/Centers. Recent examples include:

- The discovery of an AMD gene resulted from NEI collaboration with the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI). NEI's research with NCI and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) into factors that inhibit new blood vessel growth has resulted in the first generation of ophthalmic drugs to treat "wet" AMD.
- NEI has worked closely with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders (NIDDK) in its multiple *Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Trials Networks*, which have resulted in best treatment practices for diabetic retinopathy.
- NEI studies characterizing the increased risk of incidence of eye disease in minority populations have been co-funded by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD).

NEI Works Collaboratively Within NIH to Respond to Top Public Health Challenges

"Discovery of a gene for AMD is a breakthrough that is going to make it possible for us to prevent blindness in the aged population."

Elias Zerhouni, M.D.
NIH Director

"The NEI's bioengineering partnership with the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, an academic institution and private companies has developed a retinal chip implant that has enabled individuals who have been blind for decades to perceive visual images."

Stephen Ryan, M.D.
(Doheny Eye Institute, University of Southern California), NAEVR President

"There are a lot of common opportunities in science. One of the important stories during the next decade will be how Alzheimer's disease and macular degeneration fit together."

Paul Sieving, M.D., Ph.D.
NEI Director