



NAEVR

National Alliance For
Eye And Vision Research

Serving as Friends of the National Eye Institute

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NAEVR URGES FY2011 NIH FUNDING OF AT LEAST \$35 BILLION TO FULLY LEVERAGE AND MAINTAIN THE CURRENT MOMENTUM OF RESEARCH

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Funding:

- The vision community commends Congress for \$10.4 billion in NIH funding in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), as well as FY2009 and FY2010 funding increases that enabled NIH to keep pace with biomedical inflation after six previous years of flat funding that resulted in a 14 percent loss of purchasing power.
- In FY2009 and FY2010, NIH has essentially funded biomedical research at a level of \$35 billion. NAEVR urges Congress to fund NIH at a level of at least \$35 billion in FY2011 due to:
 - The expanded capacity for research, as demonstrated by the significant number of high-quality grant applications submitted in response to ARRA opportunities.
 - Unmet need, especially for programs of special promise that could reap substantial downstream benefits, as identified by new NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins.
 - The potential of research to reduce healthcare costs, increase productivity, and ensure the continued global competitiveness of the United States.

National Eye Institute (NEI) Funding:

- The \$175 million in ARRA funding for the National Eye Institute (NEI) within NIH has supported 333 new grants in FY2009 that range from determining the genetic basis of eye disease to developing treatments that restore sight. The FY2009 and FY2010 inflationary increases have also enabled NEI to fund key investigator networks studying new diagnostics and treatments. This infusion of new funding is important, as NEI had lost 18 percent of its purchasing power over the six previous funding cycles.
- NEI's FY2010 funding level of \$707 million reflects little more than one percent of the \$68 billion annual cost of eye disease and vision impairment in the United States. NEI estimates that 38 million Americans age 40 and older experience blindness, low vision, or age-related eye disease, such as age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, or cataracts. This number will grow to 50 million by year 2020.
- In 2009, Congress commended NEI's leadership in basic and translational research through H. Res. 366 and S. Res. 209, which recognized NEI's 40 years as the NIH Institute that leads the nation's commitment to save and restore vision. The resolutions also designated 2010-2020 as the *Decade of Vision* in recognition of the increasing health and economic burden of eye disease, mainly as a result of an aging population.