

NAEVR'S EMERGING VISION SCIENTISTS ADVOCACY DAY



Emerging Vision Scientists Request Robust NIH/NEI Funding

On October 8 and under the auspices of NAEVR, the young investigators visited their Congressional delegation offices to request robust, sustained, and predictable NIH funding for FY2016 and beyond—adding their unique perspective from vision research. Due to bipartisan Congressional concern about the future of young investigators, several Members arranged their schedules to speak with the *EVS*s.



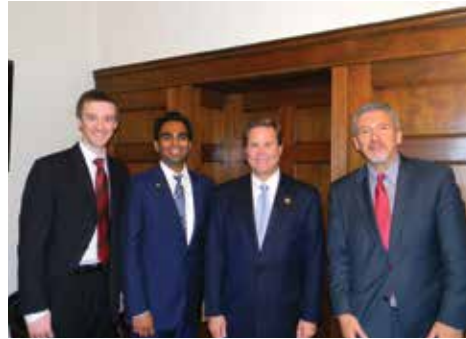
Brian Hofland, Ph.D.

Commenting on the two days of events, RPB President Dr. Hofland said:

“RPB cares deeply about robust, sustained, and predictable funding for NIH and NEI, and we have a long history of supporting emerging vision scientists who go on to contribute strongly to the fight against blinding disorders. I was heartened to have so many join us in expressing these concerns to our nation’s policy makers. AEVR’s and NAEVR’s effective coordination of Capitol Hill education and Congressional delegation visits, respectively, is another example of the productive partnership that RPB has with the Alliances to encourage national leaders to address the needs of those facing vision loss”



House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD) addresses the crowd at the “Raise the Caps” rally hosted by the Nondefense Discretionary (NDD) United coalition which the *EVS* contingent observed



Although not a constituent, Dr. Rajesh Rao (second left) served as a retinal expert in a meeting with Cong. Donald Norcross (D-NJ) (second right), joined by ARVO’s Matt Windsor, Ph.D. (far left) and NAEVR’s James Jorkasky (far right). Cong. Norcross had previously attended AEVR’s September 17 Congressional Briefing (see story right).



Dr. Daniel Pelaez with Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), a co-Chair of the Congressional Vision Caucus



Left to right: Cong. Joseph Kennedy III (D-MA) with Dr. Comander. Cong. Kennedy played lacrosse in college with another *EVS* participant, Dr. Marc Levin.



Left to right: Dr. Kevin Chan with Cong. Mike Doyle (D-PA)



Dr. Martin-Paul Agbaga (right) with Caleb Krautter in the office of Cong. Steve Russell (R-OK)



Left to right: Dr. Heather Chandler and Dr. Sumit Bhattacharya with LaTasha Lee, Ph.D., M.P.H. in the office of Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), who also attended the AEVR reception



Dr. Reyna Martinez-De Luna (left) and Dr. Hofland (right) with Morgan Brand in the office of Senator Charles Schumer



California was represented by seven *Emerging Vision Scientists*, who visited the offices of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) as a delegation. From left: Dr. Marc Levin, Dr. Eric Nudleman, Dr. Stacy Pineles, Rick Patrick in the office of Senator Feinstein, Dr. Pinakin Davey, Dr. Jack Whalen, III, Dr. William Tuten, and Dr. Amir Kashani.