

Our Community Shares the Value Message of Eye and Vision Research



On June 30, NAEVR joined employees of Allergan in hearing Cong. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), a member of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, speak about current issues confronting Congress. Although a member of key committees on defense and homeland security, she identified healthcare as the country's most important issue.

Cong. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA)

On August 31, NAEVR joined members of our community in honoring Cong. Joe Barton (R-TX), chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, during an Allergan-sponsored event at the Republican National Convention. The Committee plans NIH re-authorization hearings in the 109th Congress that will put the spotlight on NIH funding priorities.



Cong. Joe Barton (R-TX) and Allergan's David Pyott (NAEVR/AEVR Board Member)



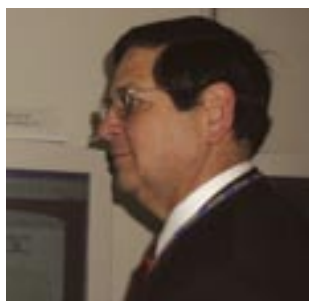
NEI's Dr. Rick Ferris

On September 21, NEI Clinical Director Dr. Rick Ferris spoke about basic and translational research into age-related macular degeneration (AMD) during an Alliance for Aging Research Congressional Briefing entitled *Diseases in the Shadows*, which also addressed incontinence and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in the elderly.



Vision Caucus co-chair Cong. Gene Green (D-TX)

On December 9-12, NAEVR hosted a "Contact Congress" booth at the American Academy of Optometry annual meeting, affording attendees an opportunity to advocate for adequate FY2006 funding for eye and vision research.



Among those voicing their concerns to Congress was AAOptom Board member Dr. Robert Newcomb (Ohio State University).

Dr. Robert Newcomb

On September 23, the Congressional Vision Caucus held a briefing on AMD, co-sponsored by the AMD Alliance International, Lighthouse International and the Seniors Coalition, that focused on the public health and depression burden of AMD, research and treatments for the disease and the need for additional Medicare coverage for rehabilitation services.