



Advanced Medical Optics
Alcon Laboratories, Inc.
Allergan, Inc
American Academy
of Ophthalmology
American Academy
of Optometry
American Optometric
Association
Association for Research in
Vision and Ophthalmology
Association of University
Professors of Ophthalmology
Bausch & Lomb
Eli Lilly and Company
Foundation Fighting
Blindness
Novartis
Pfizer Inc
Vistakon, Johnson & Johnson
Vision Care, Inc.

Association of Schools
and Colleges of Optometry
Genentech, Inc.
GenVec, Inc.
Inspire Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
ISTA Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
(OSI) Eyeteq, Inc.
Santen, Inc.
Second Sight

American Association of
Ophthalmic Pathologists
American Association for
Pediatric Ophthalmology
and Strabismus
American Diabetes Association
American Glaucoma Society
American Ophthalmological
Society
American Society of Cataract
and Refractive Surgery
American Society of Retina Specialists
American Uveitis Society
AMD Alliance International
Discovery Eye Foundation
Eye Bank Association
of America
EyeSight Foundation of Alabama
Fight for Sight
Glaucoma Research Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Research
Foundation International
Lighthouse International
Lions International
Macular Degeneration Partnership
National Vision Rehabilitation Association
Ocular Microbiology and
Immunology Group
Prevent Blindness America
Prevention of Blindness
Society of Metropolitan
Washington
PXE International
Research To Prevent Blindness
Sjögren's Syndrome Foundation
Tear Film and Ocular Surface Society
The Cornea Society
The Glaucoma Foundation
The Macula Society
The Retina Society
Vision Share,
The Consortium of Eye Banks
Women in Ophthalmology
Women's Eye Health Task Force

National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research Talking Points

NIH Reauthorization Legislation

NAEVR commends the Energy and Commerce Committee for its leadership in examining ways to modernize NIH management to most effectively and efficiently use federal research dollars. In that regard:

NAEVR supports changes that increase NIH transparency (e.g., formalizing the Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives and improving health information technology/data collection/metrics).

NAEVR supports changes that provide the NIH Director greater authority over discretionary funds for activities that engage Institutes in an interdisciplinary and collaborative manner.

NAEVR opposes the elimination of line item budgets for mission-specific Institutes. NAEVR believes that Congress should review Institute budget allocations in a process that engages both the House and Senate and both the majority and minority members before final determinations are made. This provides an important “check and balance” to the extensively-revised internal NIH process set forth in the Draft. NAEVR urges Congressional review of line item budgets for Institutes no matter what authorization levels are set for NIH. In that regard, NAEVR is concerned that an authorization “ceiling” is proposed for each of the next three fiscal years (FY2007-2009).

NAEVR opposes an increase to the NIH Director transfer authority, including changes to the current one percent cap and the approval process. As the IOM report noted, increasing the Director’s transfer authority could jeopardize an Institute’s ability to make multi-year commitments in its research portfolio. To obviate this concern, NAEVR recommends that the new Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives within the Office of the Director is adequately funded (especially with NIH budget increases) to support the important trans-Institute collaborative projects.

NAEVR urges that the newly created NIH Director’s Advisory Council is constituted so as to reflect the breadth of the research community. The Council should be assembled in a manner consistent with the appointment of Institute advisory committees, reflecting a multidisciplinary roster of representatives from the extramural research community reflecting diversity, as well as representatives from the patient advocacy community. The process by which the Council engages in oversight of trans-Institute initiatives should be scientifically rigorous and appropriately transparent.