



JAN 10 2012

Mr. James Jorkasky
Executive Director
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research/
Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
1801 Rockville Pike
Suite 400
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Mr. Jorkasky:

Thank you for your letter of December 1, 2011, and for the enclosed *NAEVR/AEVR Contributor Report*. I appreciate your interest in the work of the Scientific Management Review Board (SMRB) and your continued attention to National Institutes of Health (NIH) activities.

I applaud your work at the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research to help convey the importance of sustaining funding for NIH and the National Eye Institute (NEI). Critical advances made by NEI-supported sciences are well worth the investment of taxpayer dollars, and we need to continue to highlight the contributions made to improving human health. As we move forward in this time of economic uncertainty, we must all work together to ensure that the NIH remains a trusted steward of the Nation's investment in biomedical research.

In your letter, you mentioned the December 21 meeting of the SMRB, and by now you are aware that this meeting has been postponed. Please continue to check the SMRB website for updates from this group (smrb.od.nih.gov/). In the meantime, the newest working group of the SMRB that is focused on the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs will begin their work, which likely will be a focus of the Board's next meeting.

Thank you again for your support and for keeping the vision community informed of NIH activities.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis S. Collins".

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.
Director