

Legislative Scorecard Issues

NIH Releases Preliminary FY2009 ARRA Funding Data

In an October 26 report, NIH stated that \$4.73 billion of the two-year \$10.4 billion stimulus funding has been committed to grants and contracts. Of the 12,788 grants funded to date, 60 percent reflect new science, while nearly 40 percent accelerate

science of existing projects. NIH estimates 50,000 jobs will be created or retained, 5,000 of which reflect summer 2009 and 2010 positions for students and science educators.

FY2009 ARRA NEI Funding Factsoids:

- Of the \$175 million appropriated, 97 percent is funding extramural research, with \$5.4 million being spent on administration (peer review process)

- NEI has already committed \$142 million to 333 grants, mostly to investigator-initiated research (R01) grants and supplements

- NEI awarded ten Challenge Grants at \$1 million each, seven of which were funded through the Office of the NIH Director (OD)

- NEI's "Signature Program" is its Centers for Excellence in Genomics of Eye Disease

- The FY2010 funding balance of \$26.7 million will be committed to grants, supplements, and other initiatives, many of which are co-funded by the OD

Visit the dedicated ARRA box on the home page of NAEVR's Web site for details, including a link to the NIH RePorter System summary of ARRA NEI grants

Dr. Francis Collins Cites FY2011 NIH Funding Challenge, Describes Opportunities

Since his August 7 confirmation, NIH Director Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D. has spoken frequently, citing sustained funding as the NIH's biggest challenge, especially in FY2011 after ARRA funding expires. He stated that NIH must communicate themes that resonate with Congress, such as the role that biomedical research can play in reducing healthcare costs, and how ARRA-funded breakthrough research must be funded post-stimulus. He also described five areas of special opportunity:

- *Apply high-throughput technologies (e.g., gene sequencing, nanotechnology, microbiome) to determine the basis of disease*
- *Translational research, especially rapid development of diagnostics and treatments/therapies*
- *The beneficial role of science in healthcare reform, especially developing data that will be helpful in making decisions*
- *NIH's beneficial role in global health issues*

as they relate to chronic diseases, not just communicable diseases

- *Re-invigorating the biomedical research community through predictable and sustained funding*

NAEVR supported President Obama's nomination of Dr. Collins, citing the past collaborative efforts of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI, at which he served as Director) with the NEI on the genetic basis of eye disease.



On September 30, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Dr. Francis Collins hosted President Obama in a tour of an NIH laboratory. The President stated that ARRA NIH funding not only benefits medical research, but saves existing jobs and creates new jobs that will make a lasting difference for our future.



In a September 24 *Rock Stars of Science* event on Capitol Hill, Dr. Collins spoke about his vision for the NIH—then rocked on!

Visit the Defense-related Vision Research section of NAEVR's Web site to review the abstracts of DOD awards

	FY 2009 Final	FY 2010 President's Budget	FY 2010 House Bill	FY 2010 Senate Bill
NIH*	\$30.3 B	\$30.47 B + 1.4%	\$30.97 B + 3.1%	\$30.8 B + 1.6%
NEI	\$688.5 M	\$695.8 M + 1.1%	\$713.1 M + 3.57%	\$700.2 M + 1.7%

* Net of transfers/one time expenses

FY2010 NIH/NEI Appropriations Summary

At press time, Congress had yet to finalize the FY2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) appropriations bill, which might be included in an omnibus. NAEVR has supported the higher House-passed bill funding level (see chart), which would result in a \$24.6 million, or 3.57 percent increase, for the NEI.

Defense-Related Vision Research Update

FY2010: Congress has yet to finalize the Defense appropriations bill. NAEVR has urged that the conference bill includes the House-passed dedicated Peer Reviewed Medical Research-Vision line item that is funded at \$5 million, a 25 percent increase over FY2009.

FY2009: The Department of Defense's (DOD) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) will make \$5.4 million of awards in first-quarter 2010. TATRC, which added \$1.54 million to the \$4 million Congressional appropriation, is currently reviewing full proposals submitted in October after a mid-summer review of pre-proposal submissions.

FY2008: To date in 2009, the DOD has awarded \$12 million to vision research, \$6 million from its Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP) and \$6 million from its Deployment Related Medical Research Program (DRMRP) for research into corneal healing, corneal and retinal protection, and eyelid muscle replacement.