

cluding interstitial cystitis, fibromyalgia, temporomandibular joint and muscles disorders, irritable bowel syndrome, endometriosis, headache and chronic fatigue syndrome. The Committee strongly urges the creation of a trans-NIH research initiative that will support studies aimed at identifying common etiological pathways among these disorders, with the goal of developing potential therapeutic targets.

NATIONAL EYE INSTITUTE

Appropriations, 2010	\$706,659,000
Budget estimate, 2011	724,360,000
Committee recommendation	723,220,000

The Committee recommendation includes \$723,220,000 for the National Eye Institute [NEI]. The budget request for fiscal year 2011 is \$724,360,000, and the comparable level for fiscal year 2010 is \$706,659,000.

Cataracts.—The Committee is encouraged by the NEI's collaboration with NASA in developing a new diagnostic technology that identifies those at risk for cataract development before it is clinically detectable.

Improving Clinical Practice.—The Committee recognizes the NEI's leadership in conducting several comparative effectiveness clinical trials to improve ophthalmic care, including the Diabetic Retinopathy Clinical Research Network's comparison of drug therapies as an alternative to laser treatment for diabetic macular edema and proliferative diabetic retinopathy. The Committee is also encouraged by the use of new analytic techniques to evaluate published data from clinical trials for therapies for Primary Open Angle Glaucoma that enable researchers to compare the merits of multiple interventions without conducting additional clinical trials, which will also substantially impact clinical practice.

Leber Congenital Amaurosis.—The Committee is encouraged by recent reports of initial success in treating Leber congenital amaurosis with gene therapy and is pleased that the NEI will evaluate gene transfer in younger patients with less severe disease. The Committee urges the Institute to pursue studies of this promising treatment on an expedited basis in other genetically inherited, retinal degenerative diseases. The Committee requests an update on such efforts in the fiscal year 2012 congressional budget justification.

Trachoma.—The Committee is pleased that a recent NEI clinical trial of a multi-dose treatment course of the antibiotic azithromycin in severely affected communities led to the eradication of trachoma, the leading cause of blindness in the developing world.

Training Program.—The Committee is pleased that the NEI is committed to developing the next generation of vision researchers by expanding its institutional training grant program with a program in ocular statistical genetics to provide the vision research community with expertise in mathematics, modeling, and computation.