

ARVO and NAEVR Develop New Global Tools to Assess/Advocate on Vision Loss

On September 17 in Vancouver, Canada, members of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) and guests, including NAEVR's James Jorkasky, met to develop a methodological model to assess the costs of vision loss and impairment regionally, nationally, and worldwide. This international group included representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), blindness prevention organizations, and health economics researchers. Participants

considered epidemiological evidence, direct medical costs, societal costs, productivity, and impact on well-being. Since most participants had published papers on the burden of vision loss in their own countries, they offered useful and varied considerations.

ARVO members Kevin Frick, Ph.D., Paul Lee, M.D., J.D., and Hugh Taylor, M.D., will coordinate follow-up activities, including a paper on the group's

recommendations and a course and symposium at the 2008 ARVO Annual Meeting. At the meeting, NAEVR will also release an *International Advocacy Handbook* and an accompanying section of the ARVO Web site that will provide resources to enable researchers to advocate for increased vision funding from governmental agencies and private funding sources.



Dr. Hugh Taylor provided opening comments, based on the groundbreaking work of his team in characterizing the economic burden of eye disease in Australia



Session organizer Dr. Paul Lee and moderator David Matchar, M.D., whose experience in evaluating the costs of other major chronic diseases enriched the discussion



Economists Lynne Pezzullo, BEc, and David Rein, Ph.D., confer. On September 25, Dr. Rein spoke at the release event for the *Silver Book: Vision Loss*, a compendium of the latest data on the incidence and economic burden of aging eye disease, developed by NAEVR in partnership with the Alliance for Aging Research.

Dr. Rao Receives 2007 Pisart Vision Award

At a November 15 dinner, Gullapalli Rao, M.D. of the Prasad and Hyderabad Eye Institutes in India, received the 2007 Pisart Award in recognition of his contribution to the prevention, cure, or treatment of severe vision impairment or blindness. Dr. Rao (left) is joined by Lighthouse International President and CEO Tara Cortes, Ph.D., R.N., and Board member Donald D'Amico, M.D. (Weill Cornell Medical College). NAEVR's James Jorkasky serves as a Pisart jurist.



Photo by Dorothea Anne Lombardo

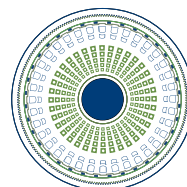


Left to right: Rainald Duerksen, M.D.; Steve Winyard; Kovin Naidoo, O.D., M.P.H.; ARVO's Joanne Angle; Gullapalli Rao, M.D.; and the WHO's Serge Resnikoff, M.D.

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