

FY2004 APPROPRIATIONS PASS FY2005 BUDGET PROCESS BEGINS NAEVR REQUESTS \$711 MILLION FOR NEI

The \$657.2 million FY2004 NEI appropriation passed by the Senate on January 22, 2004, which reflects a 3.8% increase over FY2003, is reduced to a programmatic amount of \$652.7 million due to an across-the-board .59% cut on all non-defense programs and intra-NIH transfers, resulting in a net 3.3% increase over FY2003. Despite this increase, NEI still remains in the bottom one-third of all of the Institutes in terms of having its budget doubled since FY1998. It currently stands at 1.84 of the FY1998 level, or 92% of the budget-doubling goal of \$711 million.

On February 2, the President's FY2005 budget was released. It proposes a 2.9% increase for the NEI, or an increase of \$19 million

to \$671.6 million. NEI is in the middle of a range of Institute increases from 2.8% to 3.1%. The budget proposes an NIH increase of 2.6% to \$28.8 billion, which includes some programs funded through other appropriations.

Prior to the release of the President's budget, NAEVR was advocating on Capitol Hill for FY2005 NEI funding at \$711 million—an 8% increase compared to the budget's 2.9%—which reflects a doubling of NEI's budget since FY1998. NAEVR's position paper, which can be found at www.eyeresearch.org, notes that funding eye and vision research now is cost-effective because it can reduce and potentially prevent expenditures to the Medicare and Medicaid programs.



Dr. Stephen Ryan and Lori Rowley, aide to Cong. Ralph Regula (R-OH), chair of the House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee

Source: NEI

	FY 2003 ACTUAL	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 REQUEST
NEI	\$632.3 M +9.2%	\$652.7 M +3.3%	\$671.6 M +2.9%
NIH	\$27.2 B +14.9%	\$28 B +3.1%	\$28.8 B +2.6%

