

Contributor Report



Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL)

“The UAB visit is a great example of how NAEVR works with the vision community around the country to coordinate advocacy that brings home the value message of vision research.”

—James Jorkasky

NAEVR Coordinates with UAB on Alabama Delegation Advocacy

On April 26-27, James Jorkasky met with researchers from the Department of Ophthalmology and School of Optometry at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), in addition to addressing the Board of the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama.

NAEVR has subsequently coordinated a number of UAB researcher and EyeSight Foundation contacts with the Alabama delegation, primarily Sen. Richard Shelby, a member of the Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee who was recently honored with the dedication of the new Richard and Annette Shelby Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Building on

the UAB campus. At the Subcommittee’s May 19 hearing (see McDonnell story), Sen. Shelby committed to ensuring that the NIH was adequately funded. As Sen. Shelby is also a lupus research advocate, Dr. McDonnell was able to cite the connection between lupus and vision impairment in response to questions from the Senator.

Following up on letters from UAB researchers to Sen. Shelby thanking him for his commitment to NIH funding, NAEVR President Dr. Ryan met with Greg Polley on the Senator’s staff to discuss NAEVR’s appropriations and NIH reauthorization concerns.



Left to right: UAB Department of Ophthalmology Chair Dr. Lanning Kline, EyeSight Foundation Executive Director Torrey Smitherman and James Jorkasky



Left to Right: UAB School of Optometry Dean Dr. John Amos, Dr. E. Eugenie Hartmann, James Jorkasky, Dr. Paul Gamlin, Dr. Kent Keyser and Department Chair Dr. Jimmy Bartlett.



Dr. Stephen Ryan and Greg Polley, office of Sen. Richard Shelby (R-AL)