

# Legislative Scorecard Issues

## FY2010 NIH/NEI Appropriations Summary

Despite the two-year ARRA funding for NIH of \$10.4 billion (\$174 million for the NEI), medical research advocates are urging Congress to increase NIH funding

by at least seven percent in FY2010 to restore NIH purchasing power lost due to flat funding and biomedical inflation over the past six funding cycles.

### President Proposes 1.4 Percent NIH Increase, House LHHS Bill Proposes 3.1 Percent

On May 7, President Obama released his FY2010 budget, which proposes to increase NIH funding by \$443 million, or 1.4 percent, over the FY2009 level of \$30.03 billion (net of transfers). NEI funding would increase by \$7.3 million, or one percent, over the FY2009 level of \$688.5 million. The NEI is among a number of Institutes/Centers (ICs) with a minimal increase, due to the President's focus on cancer and autism research.

In a May 21 Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Appropriations Subcommittee hearing with Acting NIH Director Raynard Kington, M.D., Ph.D., Chairman Tom Harkin (D-IA) expressed concern about the President's budget, in terms of the adequacy of the NIH increase as well as the majority of that increase being directed to cancer and autism research. Dr. Kington responded that NIH will work within the budget given to it by Congress, that cancer and autism research often is funded out of various ICs, and that cancer research can elucidate complex biological pathways applicable to all disease research.

House Appropriations Chair (and LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chair) David Obey (D-WI) has been even more vocal in his concern over the Administration's targeted funding. He expressed his concerns in a June 2 hearing with Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius. He



Raynard Kington, M.D., Ph.D.

followed that up with a July 10 statement accompanying the LHHS Subcommittee markup of its bill in which he stated that it "rejected the Administration's targeted funding approach and ensured that all ICs receive funding to offset biomedical research inflation." The House bill would increase NIH funding by \$941.8 million, or 3.1 percent increase, over FY2009, and a \$500 million increase over the President's request. NEI would be funded at \$713.1 million, a 24.6 million, or 3.56 percent increase, over FY2009. NAEVR commended Chairman Obey for improving upon the President's budget and making an initial step to stem inflationary losses, stating that it looked forward to working with the Senate and in any subsequent conference to stem inflationary losses and re-build the NIH base.

The Senate LHHS Subcommittee is expected to mark up its bill in late July.

	FY 2009 Final	FY 2010 President's Budget	FY 2010 House Bill
NIH*	\$30.03 B	\$30.47 B + 1.4%	\$30.97 B +3.1%
NEI	\$688.5 M	\$695.8 M +1.1%	\$713.1 M +3.57%

\* Net of transfers/one time expenses

### NAEVR Communicates with HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius



In early June, NAEVR congratulated Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius on her confirmation, especially her testimony in support of the NIH. Echoing comments made by Members during June 2 House and June 9 Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee hearings, NAEVR expressed concern over the President's proposed FY2010 NIH budget, which would only increase NEI funding by a minimal one percent, due to a funding focus on cancer and autism. NAEVR also informed her of the current celebration of NEI's 40th anniversary.

### NAEVR Applauds President's Nomination of Dr. Collins as NIH Director



On July 8, President Obama nominated Francis Collins, M.D., Ph.D., as the 16th Director of the NIH. NAEVR applauded this move, noting Dr. Collins' impressive record as a scientist and leader, having served as Director of the Human Genome Project and National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). NAEVR also cited Dr. Collins' past collaborative efforts with NEI on ocular genetics, resulting in one-quarter of all genes discovered to date being associated with vision impairment and eye disease.

### ARVO Members Contact Congress, Urge at Least Seven Percent FY2010 NIH/NEI Increase at 2009 ARVO Annual Meeting



Then-Incoming ARVO President Nicholas Delamere, Ph.D. (University of Arizona) contacts Congress



Bobbie Ann Austin, Ph.D. (ARVO Assist. Dir. of Science Policy and Programs) assists Mark Petrash, Ph.D. (Univ. of Co.) in contacting Congress



James Weiland, Ph.D. (Doheny Eye Institute), left, and Murray Fingeret, O.D. (VA New York Health Care System), right, discuss funding issue with NAEVR's James Jorkasky