

Legislative Scorecard Issues

\$200 Million More for NEI From Economic Stimulus, FY2009 Appropriations

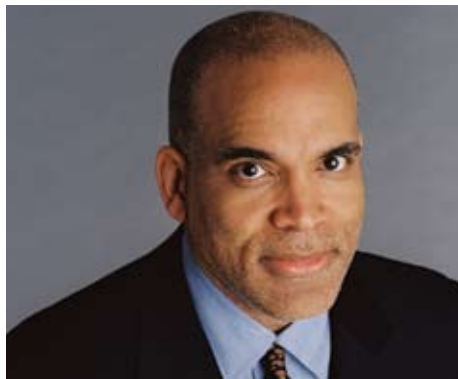
NEI has announced that it anticipates receiving \$175 million over the next two years from the \$10.4 billion NIH funding within the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, PL.111-5), signed by President Obama on February 17. In addition to those two-year stimulative dollars, the FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act (PL 111-8), signed by President Obama on March 11, increases NEI funding by \$21.4 million to a level of \$688.5 million (see funding chart). Although that 3.2 percent increase in annual appropriations is the largest since FY2004, it just barely matches the



Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA) led efforts for \$10B NIH increase. On March 24, Research!America recognized him with its *Legacy Award*.

FY2008 biomedical inflation rate of 3.5 percent.

The \$200 million more for NEI over its FY2008 funding level of \$667 million from the recent legislative actions may represent a “floor” since vision researchers will have opportunities to seek funding from other NIH mechanisms (see summary chart). These include: the newly created “Challenge Grants”; NIH common fund (e.g., bridge funding, new investigator awards); extramural research/renovation/construction; and shared instrumentation.



NIH Director Raynard Kington, M.D., Ph.D., met with the research community to detail stimulus implementation

ARVO Researchers Support NIH/NEI Increase in January 23 Advocacy Day

As in past years, ARVO researchers were among the first on Capitol Hill in the new legislative session to advocate for increased NIH/NEI funding, as well as defense-related vision research within the DOD. In 35 visits, the 13 domestic and international researchers, hosted by ARVO and NAEVR staff, urged Members of the new 111th Congress to support NIH funding at a level of \$10 billion in the economic



stimulus, which echoed NAEVR’s request in a January 14, 2009, letter to President Obama’s transition team that NIH be funded at that substantial level. In that letter, NAEVR cited Research!America’s estimate that NIH has lost \$8.6 billion in purchasing power over the past six funding cycles, due to biomedical inflation and the lack of a minimal three percent annual increase.

ARVO Advocacy Day Participants included (from left to right): Front Row: Debora Nickla, Ph.D. (New England College of Optometry); Suzanne Fleiszig, O.D., Ph.D. (University of California/Berkeley); Sally Atherton, Ph.D. (Medical College of Georgia); Muna Naash, Ph.D. (University of Oklahoma Health Science Center); Rajiv Mohan, Ph.D. (University of Missouri); **Second Row:** Michael Robinson, Ph.D. (Miami University of Ohio); Richard Harrad, FRCS (Bristol Eye Hospital, United Kingdom); Leonard Levin, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Wisconsin); Paul Bernstein, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Utah); Nancy Coletta, O.D., Ph.D. (New England College of Optometry); Joseph Carroll, Ph.D. (Medical College of Wisconsin); **Not Shown:** Dong Chen, M.D., Ph.D. (Schepens Eye Research Institute/Harvard Medical School); Ido Perlman, Ph.D. (Technion, Israel Institute of Technology); and ARVO staff members Joanne Angle (Executive Director), Bobbie Austin, Ph.D., and Lori Methia

NAEVR’s Web Site Home Page Links to Dedicated Section on Economic Stimulus, Including Funding Notices

The \$10.4 Billion NIH Funding in the ARRA includes:

- \$8.2 billion for research, \$7.4 billion of which prorated to NIH Institutes, Centers (ICs) and the Common Fund, with \$0.8 billion in Office of the NIH Director (includes \$200 million for new “Challenge Grants” to address specific health challenges)
- \$1.3 billion to the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR): \$1 billion for extramural research repair/renovation/construction and \$0.3 billion for acquisition of shared instrumentation and other capital research equipment
- \$0.5 billion for NIH intramural buildings and facilities
- \$0.4 billion transferred to NIH from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) for comparative effectiveness research

	FY 2007 Final*	FY 2008 Final+	FY 2009 Final++
NIH	\$28.9 B	\$29.38 B + .75%	\$30.3 B +3.2%
NEI	\$667.1 M	\$670.7 M +0.5%	\$688.5 M +3.2%

* FY2007 NEI excludes \$8.5M for NEI programs due to direct appropriations to NIH Common Fund and \$4.2M in NIH Director Bridge Awards

+ FY2008 figures include original appropriations sums of \$29.2B NIH/\$667.1M NEI plus supplemental appropriations of \$150M NIH/\$3.5M NEI. Final FY2008 NEI excludes \$3M from Director’s Bridge Awards

++ Percent increase based on initial FY2008 appropriation (not including mid-year supplemental)

NAEVR Urges At Least a Seven Percent Increase in FY2010 NIH/NEI Appropriations

Although commending Congress for the two-year stimulative dollars in the ARRA and the FY2009 inflationary increase, NAEVR is urging Congress to increase FY2010 NIH/NEI funding by at least seven percent, which reflects a modest increase to re-build the base plus biomedical inflation. This would result in NIH funding of \$32.4 billion and NEI funding of \$736 million.