AEVR's Third Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day on Capitol Hill

On September 13, AEVR’s Decade of Vision 2010-2020 Initiative hosted its Third Annual Emerging Vision Scientists (EVS) Day on Capitol Hill, which was supported by a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB). The event, held during Healthy Vision Month and International Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) Awareness Week 2017, was concurrent with the fifth annual Rally for Medical Research Advocacy Day (see box next page).

These 18 young investigators—reflecting the breadth of basic and clinical vision research and who have not yet received their first investigator-initiated (R01) grant from the NIH/NEI—attended AEVR’s annual AMD Congressional Briefing and displayed posters of their research in an evening Congressional Reception. On September 14 and under the auspices of NAEVR, they visited their Congressional delegation offices.

AEVR EVS Poster Reception

In addition to the poster display, AEVR President Dr. Peter McDonnell hosted a brief evening program at which NEI Deputy Director Belinda Seto, PhD offered a welcome, discussed the NIH/NEI commitment to early-stage investigators, and visited each poster. Dr. Seto was accompanied by Shefa Gordon, PhD, Acting Director of the Office of Program Planning and Analysis, and Maria Zacharias, Director of the Office of Science Communications, Public Liaison, and Education.

EVSs Educate About Research to Reduce Burden of Eye Disease

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Since 2015, and between both the dedicated EVS Day and EVS Track at the annual ARVO Annual Meeting Planning Committee Advocacy Day, AEVR has hosted more than 80 early-stage investigators on Capitol Hill. Summaries of the 2015 and 2016 events—including brief documentary videos—are posted on the Web site at www.eyeresearch.org.