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

The class of the Fourth Annual Emerging Vision Scientists Day (see names in box below) who participated in the AEVR and NAEVR events reflecting the breadth of breakthrough vision research who were nominated by their Departments of Ophthalmology or Schools/Colleges of Optometry from across the nation

AEVR EVS Poster Reception

Although focused on the descriptive posters presented by the EVSs, the 2018 Reception also recognized anniversaries—NEI's 50th as the NIH Institute leading the nation's sight-saving and vision-preserving mission, and AEVR's 25th as “The Friends of the NEI.”

A number of the EVSs presented research into therapies and technologies that are in development by a team in which they participate at their academic institution led by an NEI-funded Principal Investigator. The posters not only described the research, but also presented “public health” data about the incidence/impact of the disease and its cost as a means to fully explain the potential benefit of the investment in the research.

AEVR President Peter McDonnell, MD hosted a brief program that featured Michael Steinmetz, PhD, NEI’s Director of Extramural Science Programs, who emphasized the Institute’s commitment to the next generation of vision scientists throughout its 50-year history. Dr. Steinmetz was joined by NEI’s Shefa Gordon, PhD (Acting Director of the Office of Program Planning and Analysis) and Maria Zacharias (Director of Communications) in visiting posters and speaking with the EVSs.

Since 2015, AEVR has hosted more than 100 early-stage investigators on Capitol Hill. Summaries of the 2015, 2016, and 2017 events—including brief documentary videos—are posted at www.eyeresearch.org.

EVSs Among First to Thank Congress for Final FY2019 NIH/NEI Appropriations

On September 27, AEVR hosted its Fourth Annual EVS Day on Capitol Hill, which was supported by a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB). The event occurred as Congress passed—and the President signed—H.R. 6157, the minibus FY2019 spending bill that finalized both Defense and LHSS appropriations with nearly $30 million more for vision research.

The 20 early-stage investigators—reflecting the breadth of basic and clinical vision research and who have not yet received their first investigator-initiated (RO1) grant from the NIH/NEI—attended AEVR’s AMD Congressional Briefing (story left), provided on-camera interviews about their research for a documentary video, and displayed posters of their research in an evening Congressional Reception. On September 28 and under the auspices of NAEVR, they visited their Congressional delegation offices. (story right)