Prior to and after the Briefing, Michael Berg and Benjamin Sullivan, PhD of TearLab conducted the “Test Your Tears” screening using the TearLab Osmolarity System, which measures osmolarity of human tears to aid in the diagnosis of dry eye disease, in conjunction with other methods of clinical evaluation. Osmolarity is an important biomarker of ocular surface health.

Research Advocates Present Posters, Join Speakers in Congressional Office Visits

Prior to and after the Briefing, four clinicians and researchers engaged in TFOS DEWS II™ Report development presented posters on different aspects of dry eye as follows:

- “Why Is the Tear Film Important?” Carolyn Begley, OD, MS, FAAO (Professor, Indiana University School of Optometry)
- “Why is Dry Eye Disease Painful?” Anat Galor, MD (Staff Physician, Surgical Services, Miami Veterans Administration Medical Center and Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/University of Miami)
- “Why is Dry Eye a Problem for Doctors?” Victor Perez, MD (Professor of Ophthalmology, Microbiology, and Immunology, Bascom Palmer Eye Institute/University of Miami)
- “Can the Use of Cosmetics Affect Dry Eye?” Laura Periman, MD (Private Practice, Redmond Eye Clinic, Redmond, Washington)

The Congressional Record editions of July 12 and July 17 included Dry Eye Awareness Month recognition statements by Cong. Pete Sessions (R-TX) and Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), respectively. In 2009, Cong. Sessions and then-Cong. Baldwin were co-sponsors of the successfully passed H. Res. 366, which recognized the NEI’s 40th anniversary and designated 2010-2020 as the “Decade of Vision.” Long-time advocates for the NEI and vision research, Cong. Sessions is Chair of the House Rules Committee and Senator Baldwin is a member of the Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee, with jurisdiction over NIH/NEI funding, and the Senate Health, Education Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee, with oversight jurisdiction over NIH.

TFOS Executive Director Amy Gallant Sullivan and Briefing Moderator Dr. Karpecki joined the research advocates in meetings with their Congressional delegations, joined by AEVR’s James Jorkasky and David Epstein. While describing dry eye’s impact on quality of life and productivity, the advocates emphasized the importance of research into its causes and treatments which is supported by the NEI.