**ARVO ANNUAL MEETING 2015**

**Record Crowd Hears About Defense Vision Research Funding**

A record crowd attended NAEVR’s Defense-Related Vision Research Opportunities session, which focused on how researchers can be responsive to Department of Defense (DOD)-identified vision research gaps. Vision Program Manager Robert Read from the DOD’s Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), which manages the dedicated $10 million Vision Research Program (VRP) in Defense appropriations, announced that an FY2015 VRP funding announcement would likely issue in late June. Since the VRP was created by Congress in FY2009 through NAEVR advocacy, the DOD has issued 67 awards totaling $50 million.

Mr. Read also spoke about other DOD funding opportunities, including the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Domestic and international researchers are eligible, and researchers who seek VRP funding are more likely to apply for funding from other DOD programs with key words such as “sensory” and “rehabilitation” and for diseases with a visual component.

Mr. Read and DOD colleague Marc Mitchell met on-one with researchers at a dedicated CDMRP booth from Sunday through Wednesday. NAEVR wishes to thank them for their participation in commitment to the soldiers who have experienced battlefield eye injuries. See the Report’s back page for the latest on DOD funding.

**ARVO TBI Session Features Researchers and Veterans**

The session panel from left: Colonel Donald Gagliano, M.D. (U.S. Army, Ret.) who moderated the panel, Ann McKee, M.D. (Boston University School of Medicine), Randy Kardon, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Iowa), Lee Goldstein, M.D., Ph.D. (Boston University School of Medicine), Glenn Cockermouth, M.D. (VA-Palo Alto Health Care System), who serves as the National Program Director for VA Ophthalmology and the Interim Deputy Director of the joint DOD/VA Vision Center of Excellence, Army Staff Sergeant Sean Johnson (Ret.), Navy Chief Petty Officer Glenn Minney (Ret.), who serves as the Blind Veterans Association’s Director of Government Relations, and Army Sergeant Shanti Lee (Ret.) discussed his experiences with head injuries during his seven-year NFL (National Football League) career—all spent with the Broncos—and his concerns for his future health and that of his fellow players, both current and retired.

**ARVO Session Features AEVR’s Attitudinal Survey Results**

Adrienne Scott, M.D. (Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins) delivered a paper entitled Attitudinal Survey of Americans on Eye and Vision Health, which reported on results of AEVR’s public opinion poll released in September 2014 at a National Press Club event in Washington, D.C. The poll, commissioned by ResearchAmerica from Zogby Analytics and supported by a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), was the most rigorous conducted to-date of attitudes about vision and vision loss among ethnic and racial groups and found that the majority of Americans describe losing vision as potentially having the greatest impact on their day-to-day life.

Survey results and a video of the release event are on the home page of www.eyeresearch.org

---

**Record Crowd Hears About Defense Vision Research Funding**

A record crowd attended NAEVR’s Defense-Related Vision Research Opportunities session, which focused on how researchers can be responsive to Department of Defense (DOD)-identified vision research gaps. Vision Program Manager Robert Read from the DOD’s Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), which manages the dedicated $10 million Vision Research Program (VRP) in Defense appropriations, announced that an FY2015 VRP funding announcement would likely issue in late June. Since the VRP was created by Congress in FY2009 through NAEVR advocacy, the DOD has issued 67 awards totaling $50 million.

Mr. Read also spoke about other DOD funding opportunities, including the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Domestic and international researchers are eligible, and researchers who seek VRP funding are more likely to apply for funding from other DOD programs with key words such as “sensory” and “rehabilitation” and for diseases with a visual component.

Mr. Read and DOD colleague Marc Mitchell met on-one with researchers at a dedicated CDMRP booth from Sunday through Wednesday. NAEVR wishes to thank them for their participation in commitment to the soldiers who have experienced battlefield eye injuries. See the Report’s back page for the latest on DOD funding.

**ARVO TBI Session Features Researchers and Veterans**

The session panel from left: Colonel Donald Gagliano, M.D. (U.S. Army, Ret.) who moderated the panel, Ann McKee, M.D. (Boston University School of Medicine), Randy Kardon, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Iowa), Lee Goldstein, M.D., Ph.D. (Boston University School of Medicine), Glenn Cockermouth, M.D. (VA-Palo Alto Health Care System), who serves as the National Program Director for VA Ophthalmology and the Interim Deputy Director of the joint DOD/VA Vision Center of Excellence, Army Staff Sergeant Sean Johnson (Ret.), Navy Chief Petty Officer Glenn Minney (Ret.), who serves as the Blind Veterans Association’s Director of Government Relations, and Army Sergeant Shanti Lee (Ret.) discussed his experiences with head injuries during his seven-year NFL (National Football League) career—all spent with the Broncos—and his concerns for his future health and that of his fellow players, both current and retired.

**ARVO Session Features AEVR’s Attitudinal Survey Results**

Adrienne Scott, M.D. (Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins) delivered a paper entitled Attitudinal Survey of Americans on Eye and Vision Health, which reported on results of AEVR’s public opinion poll released in September 2014 at a National Press Club event in Washington, D.C. The poll, commissioned by ResearchAmerica from Zogby Analytics and supported by a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), was the most rigorous conducted to-date of attitudes about vision and vision loss among ethnic and racial groups and found that the majority of Americans describe losing vision as potentially having the greatest impact on their day-to-day life.

Survey results and a video of the release event are on the home page of www.eyeresearch.org

---

**Record Crowd Hears About Defense Vision Research Funding**

A record crowd attended NAEVR’s Defense-Related Vision Research Opportunities session, which focused on how researchers can be responsive to Department of Defense (DOD)-identified vision research gaps. Vision Program Manager Robert Read from the DOD’s Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP), which manages the dedicated $10 million Vision Research Program (VRP) in Defense appropriations, announced that an FY2015 VRP funding announcement would likely issue in late June. Since the VRP was created by Congress in FY2009 through NAEVR advocacy, the DOD has issued 67 awards totaling $50 million.

Mr. Read also spoke about other DOD funding opportunities, including the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) and the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. Domestic and international researchers are eligible, and researchers who seek VRP funding are more likely to apply for funding from other DOD programs with key words such as “sensory” and “rehabilitation” and for diseases with a visual component.

Mr. Read and DOD colleague Marc Mitchell met on-one with researchers at a dedicated CDMRP booth from Sunday through Wednesday. NAEVR wishes to thank them for their participation in commitment to the soldiers who have experienced battlefield eye injuries. See the Report’s back page for the latest on DOD funding.

**ARVO TBI Session Features Researchers and Veterans**

The session panel from left: Colonel Donald Gagliano, M.D. (U.S. Army, Ret.) who moderated the panel, Ann McKee, M.D. (Boston University School of Medicine), Randy Kardon, M.D., Ph.D. (University of Iowa), Lee Goldstein, M.D., Ph.D. (Boston University School of Medicine), Glenn Cockermouth, M.D. (VA-Palo Alto Health Care System), who serves as the National Program Director for VA Ophthalmology and the Interim Deputy Director of the joint DOD/VA Vision Center of Excellence, Army Staff Sergeant Sean Johnson (Ret.), Navy Chief Petty Officer Glenn Minney (Ret.), who serves as the Blind Veterans Association’s Director of Government Relations, and Army Sergeant Shanti Lee (Ret.) discussed his experiences with head injuries during his seven-year NFL (National Football League) career—all spent with the Broncos—and his concerns for his future health and that of his fellow players, both current and retired.

**ARVO Session Features AEVR’s Attitudinal Survey Results**

Adrienne Scott, M.D. (Wilmer Eye Institute/Johns Hopkins) delivered a paper entitled Attitudinal Survey of Americans on Eye and Vision Health, which reported on results of AEVR’s public opinion poll released in September 2014 at a National Press Club event in Washington, D.C. The poll, commissioned by ResearchAmerica from Zogby Analytics and supported by a grant from Research to Prevent Blindness (RPB), was the most rigorous conducted to-date of attitudes about vision and vision loss among ethnic and racial groups and found that the majority of Americans describe losing vision as potentially having the greatest impact on their day-to-day life.

Survey results and a video of the release event are on the home page of www.eyeresearch.org