NAEVR Works Closely with Contributors and Coalition Partners in Advocacy

"Without research, there is no hope"
—The Honorable Paul Rogers

BIO Investor Conference

On February 23-24, NAEVR participated in the Biotechnology Industry Organization’s (BIO) Annual Investor Conference, providing informal comments about federal funding at a session entitled Biotech and Eye Disorders: Seeing Beyond the Obvious. In keynote comments, new BIO President James Greenwood, former Republican Congressman from Pennsylvania, announced BIO’s expanded advocacy for governmental policies that result in timely product approval and coverage/payment decisions for new therapies resulting from medical research.

AUPO Annual Meeting

On January 28, NAEVR conducted an advocacy breakfast at the annual meeting of the Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO), one of the founding organizations of AEVR and NAEVR. In commenting on the responsiveness of AUPO members, NAEVR’s James Jorkasky noted that, “The Ophthalmology Department chairs have been among the first to contact Congress at pivotal times in the federal funding process. Many have developed close relationships with Members of Congress, so their voices greatly enhance our message about the value of research.”

Research!America Annual Meeting

On March 15, NAEVR participated in the Research!America (R!A) annual meeting entitled Research: The Risks, the Rewards and the Returns which featured a panel including NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and CDC Director Dr. Julie Gerberding, along with research advocates. The panel acknowledged that, although the public strongly supports medical research, our community must do a better job of connecting future economic growth, educational progress and military defense effectiveness to a strong medical research base. John Porter, who serves as NAEVR Legislative Counsel, was elected R!A Board chair, succeeding former Florida Congressman Paul Rogers, who cautioned the audience in opening comments that, “Without research, there is no hope.”