ADVOCACY AN INTEGRAL PART OF ARVO’S ANNUAL MEETING

Attendees emailed hundreds of letters to their Members of Congress during the ARVO Annual meeting, held in late April in Fort Lauderdale. The NAEVR booth, watched over by none other than the Statue of Liberty (who also sported an “Eye Contacted Congress” button), was also a central location for attendees to learn more about voicing their concerns about adequate eye and vision research funding.

“Due to the recent release of the NEI data on age-related eye disease, my email letters requesting $711 million for the NEI carried an even more potent message,” noted then-ARVO President Sally Atherton (Medical College of Georgia). “I also had the chance to remind the Congressional offices about attending the May 13 AEvR-sponsored ‘Aging Eye’ Capitol Hill Briefing so that they could learn more about the issue,” she added.

NAEV R’s activities were not confined to the booth, however, as it sponsored a breakfast briefing and participated in the ARVO International Advocacy session. NAEVR Executive Director James Jorkasky also conferred with the ARVO Advocacy Committee on future activities.

Note that NIH Director Dr. Elias Zerhouni and NIH-funded Nobel Prize winner in Chemistry, Dr. Peter Agre, have both agreed to speak at the ARVO Annual Meeting, to be held May 1-5, 2005, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.