Our Community Shares the Value Message of Eye and Vision Research

On February 11, the Foundation Fighting Blindness made Capitol Hill visits to key leaders with Lancelot, the dog born with Leber Congenital Amaurosis (LCA) whose vision was successfully restored through gene therapy conducted by NEI-funded researchers.

In late April and mid-May, NAEVR participated in the annual “Lobby Days” of the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) and the American Optometric Association (AOA), sharing NAEVR’s messages with attendees.

On May 13, the Congressional Vision Caucus, in conjunction with Prevent Blindness America and the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), sponsored a Vision Technology Expo on Capitol Hill that addressed the value of technology to treat cataracts. Members Alcon and Bausch & Lomb participated.

On May 19, Pfizer Ophthalmics sponsored a Capitol Hill briefing entitled Seeing is Believing: Advancing Senior Health and Automotive Safety. Although the focus was on new intraocular lens technologies, the larger message for Hill staff was that of the economic and societal costs associated with vision impairment in the elderly. Sen. John Breaux (D-LA), Ranking Member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, was the keynote speaker. Shortly before the event, NAEVR met with Elaine Dalpiaz of Committee staff to discuss the new NEI age-related eye disease incidence data.

Left: Sen. Don Nickles (R-OK), Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, takes time out of his busy schedule to play with Lancelot

Below: Then-AOA President Dr. Victor Connors discusses research issues with NAEVR’s James Jorkasky

Above Left: Cong. David Price (D-NC), Vision Caucus Co-Chair, views the technologies’ component parts.

Above Right: Sen. John Breaux (D-LA)