NAEV R Engages Capitol Hill Staff and Network Members in Events Celebrating Vision Research and Advocacy

**FFB Valentine’s Day Gala**

On February 8, NAEVR and ARVO hosted a table at the Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) Valentine’s Day Gala, which included three key Congressional staff members: Sudip Parikh from the Senate LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee, chaired by Sen. Arlen Specter (R-PA); Viquar Ahmad from the staff of House LHHS Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Ralph Regula (R-OH); and Cheryl Jaeger from the staff of Majority Whip and Energy and Commerce Committee Member Cong. Roy Blunt (R-MO).

**Research!America Advocacy Awards Dinner**

On March 21, NAEVR, ARVO and Allergan hosted a table at the Research!America Advocacy Awards Dinner, at which Foundation Fighting Blindness Co-Founder and Board Chairman Gordon Gund (Gund Investment Corporation) was recognized for exceptional contributions as a volunteer advocate for medical and health research. ARVO President Dr. Larry Takemoto (Kansas State University) hosted staff from the offices of Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT), a champion for medical research as a means to ensure the United States’ global competitiveness. The staff included Dr. Wilson Wang and Dr. Purva Rawal, both of whom have conducted biomedical research.

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“The examples of research and the value we derive from our nation’s investment in it, as explained to me by John Porter at the dinner, moved me to commit to increasing the FY2007 funding for NIH.”

—Cong. Mike Castle (R-DE), an award recipient and lead moderate Republican supporting an increase in the House Budget Resolution (see story inside). John Porter is NAEVR’s Legislative Counsel and also serves as Research!America Board Chair