NAEVR at the 2012 ARVO ANNUAL MEETING

NAEVR Central, the Vision Research Community’s “Town Hall,” Draws Record Numbers

Prominently situated next to ARVO Central at the entrance to the Exhibit Hall, NAEVR Central drew a record number of visitors. In addition to contacting Congress to urge FY2013 NIH and NEI funding at $32 billion and $730 million, respectively, researchers also visited with representatives of the DOD’s Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) and the joint DOD/VA Vision Center of Excellence (VCE)—see story to right. From Monday to Wednesday, those representatives spent more than 30 hours hearing from ARVO members about research that meets DOD needs.

“NAEVR Central continues to serve as the ‘Town Hall’ for vision research issues, including funding advocacy and opportunities as well as relationship-building,” said NAEVR Executive Director James Jorkasky. “Advocacy can be a little daunting at first, so it is helpful for researchers to meet with NAEVR’s David Epstein or me to learn how they can be effective in expressing their voice about funding. The various programs and acronyms within the DOD can be a little confusing, too, so we help researchers learn more about those funding sources. Finally, it also provides an opportunity for those who may only know David and me through emails and phone conversations to meet us in person.”

Visit the Defense-related Vision Research section of NAEVR’s Web site for more details.

DOD Announces $12.2 M Allocated for Awards to Vision Researchers

At NAEVR’s May 7 briefing entitled Defense-Related Vision Research Opportunities, the DOD announced to the more than 200 attendees that it has allocated $12.2 million for awards to vision researchers in the FY2011/2012 funding cycle for its Vision Research Program (VRP). Since TATRC is currently in negotiations with awardees, those individuals and the abstracts of their research projects will not be identified until later this year.

TATRC Vision Program Manager Robert Read described that, in addition to Congressional allocations of $4 million in FY2011 and $3.2 million in FY2012 under the dedicated Vision Trauma Research Program (VTRP), other DOD divisions have added $5 million in funding in this cycle due to the quality of the grant requests received and their responsiveness to DOD-identified vision research gaps. TATRC initially received 151 pre-proposals in response to its August 5, 2011, Program Announcement that specified that two types of grants would be funded: Hypothesis Development Awards (maximum $250,000) and Investigator Initiated Awards (maximum $1 million). In TATRC’s FY2009/2010 funding cycle, twelve vision researchers received $11 million in awards.

Contact NAEVR’s David Epstein at depstein@eyeresearch.org to be added to the “DOD Interest Email List” to receive updates on funding opportunities and awards.