NAEVR Central at ARVO’s 2011 Annual Meeting drew a record number of visitors. In addition to contacting Congress to urge support for FY2012 NIH funding, researchers also visited with representatives from the Department of Defense’s (DOD) Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC) and the joint DOD/Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vision Center of Excellence (VCE). At NAEVR’s May 2 Defense-Related Vision Research Opportunities session (see back page), TATRC announced that it would shortly issue a Program Announcement seeking grant submissions for its Vision Research Program (VRP) funded through the dedicated $4 million line item in FY2011 defense appropriations.

“NAEVR Central continues to serve as the ‘Town Hall’ for questions on vision research funding and resources,” said NAEVR’s James Jorkasky. “With a net one percent cut to the NIH/NEI funding level in FY2011, researchers were especially interested in DOD funding opportunities and how their research could meet DOD-identified gaps in vision research, such as corneal healing, corneal and retinal protection, visual dysfunction associated with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and the eye blast phenomenon. I especially want to thank TATRC Vision Portfolio Manager Robert Read for meeting with researchers for three days in our booth, as well as NAEVR’s David Epstein for responding to so many questions and adding researchers to his ‘DOD Interest Email List’ to receive announcements about funding opportunities.”