

# SAVE SIGHT SAVE THE NEI

## Keep “eye” in the NIH

Current Congressional proposals to consolidate the number of NIH institutes from 27 to 8 would eliminate the **National Eye Institute (NEI)** and merge it into the “**Institute of Neuroscience and Brain Research**”, creating:

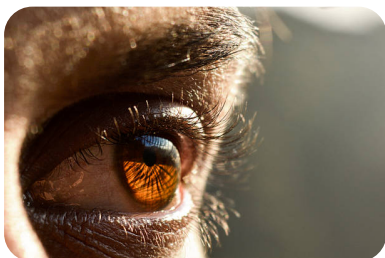
- dramatic cuts to allocated research support for preventing vision threatening diseases
- loss of funding for over half of the eye diseases that cause visual impairment and don't it in the merged institute

## Eyesight and vision health are important for quality of life

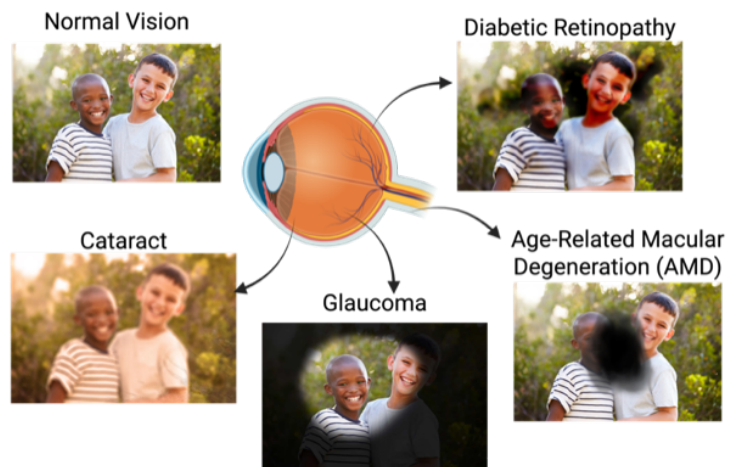
Most Americans would rather lose a limb



*than lose eyesight*



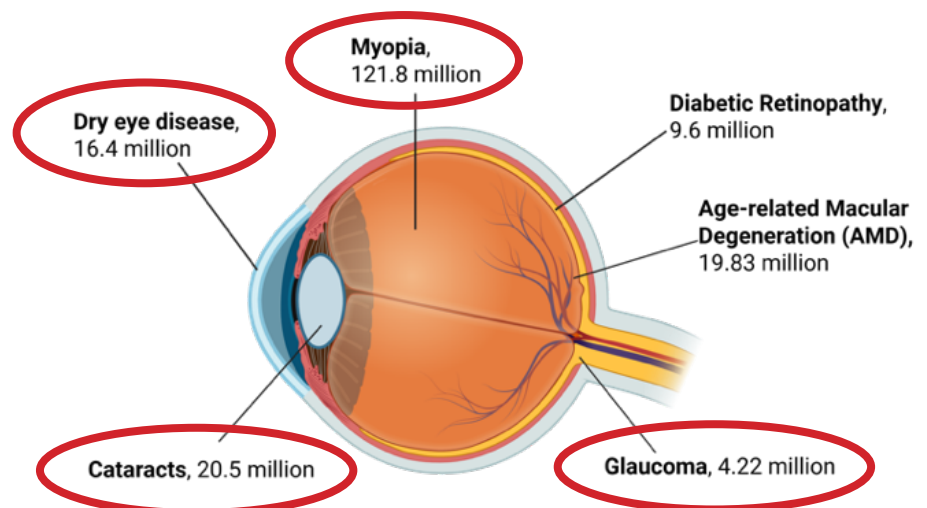
Developing cures and treatments for these causes of chronic visual impairment require years of rigorous research



## Visual impairments affect 192.35 million Americans, more than half the US

Discovery and innovation is needed for all parts of the eye to provide the best eye care

These diseases don't fit within NEI consolidation



## Visual loss has significant economic impact with alarmingly low vision research investment

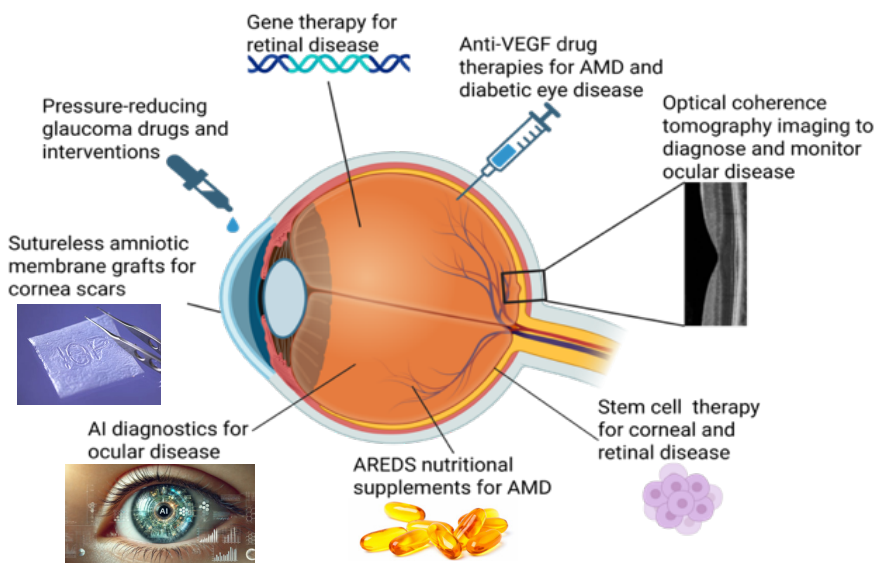
Economic burden: \$199 billion in 2025

Burden **\$865 per American**

Federal vision research funding: \$896.5 million since FY23

Funding **\$2.65 per American**

## NEI funding has developed vision-saving treatments since 1968

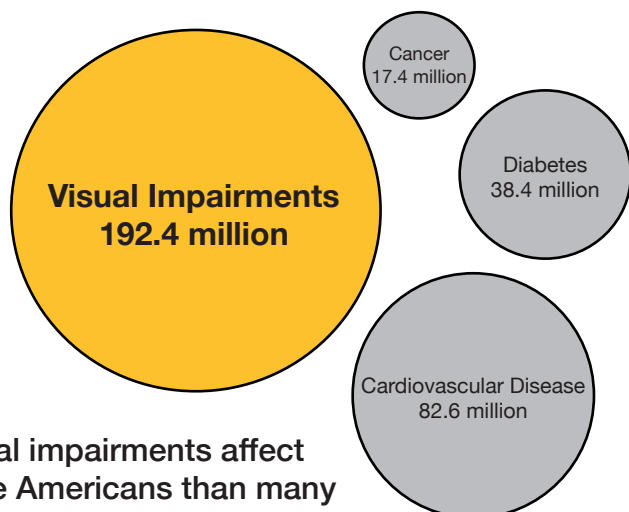


NEI is the only NIH institute dedicated to vision research

Discoveries in vision research lead the way for many cutting edge biomedical advances:

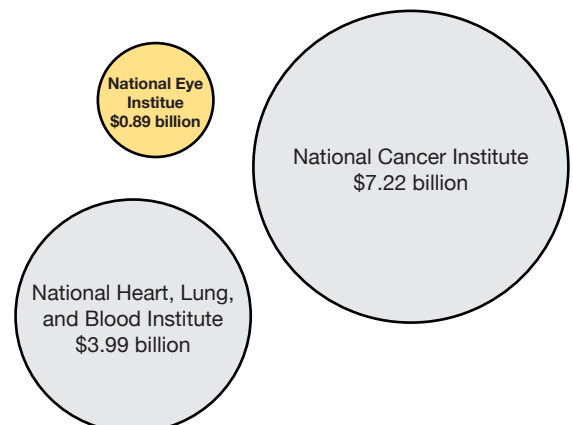
- gene therapy
- stem cell therapy
- AI diagnostics
- ocular imaging

## Investment in research for visual impairment is not proportional to the numbers affected



Visual impairments affect more Americans than many other health conditions

Eye research is underfunded compared to other health conditions



Contact: [www.eyeresearch.org](http://www.eyeresearch.org)