Dear ARVO Members,

As you know, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, commemorating excellence in research in the eye and vision community.

This milestone was especially enjoyed this spring during ARVO’s Annual Meeting, held in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and attended by more than 8,200 people. Considering the world events that affected us all, I am thrilled participation increased from last year and that so many of you were able to join us for a week full of innovative science, state-of-the-art technology and research product exhibits, networking with friends and colleagues both in academic and social settings, interesting lectures, and fun social events.

I thank those who attended, presented, exhibited, and supported us during the Annual Meeting. The scientific program offered this year did not disappoint and we have already begun to plan for the 2004 Annual Meeting, the theme of which will be “The Site for Sight.” I’m looking forward to seeing you April 25-29, 2004 in Fort Lauderdale.

With autumn fast approaching, I would like to take a moment and share with you important information pertaining to your Membership, particularly regarding ARVO’s Strategic Plan and two Bylaws amendments.

**Bylaws**

At their meeting in June 2003, the Board of Trustees passed one procedural amendment to the ARVO Bylaws. This amendment changed the requirement that a Section must nominate two individuals to appear on the ballot when that Section is electing a Trustee. The Bylaws now read that a Section may nominate no more than two individuals for the position of successor trustee. While this means that a Section may, in fact, nominate only one individual to appear on the ballot unopposed, the Board made it clear that it did not endorse this practice. Whenever possible, Sections are encouraged to recruit two nominees to run for election when the time comes for the Section to choose its next trustee.

At the same meeting, the Board also approved one amendment regarding Emeritus Membership that will be voted on at the 2004 General Business Meeting. At the General Business Meeting, the voting members of ARVO will cast ballots on an amendment to remove age as criteria for Emeritus Membership. In accepting this amendment, the Board expressed its opinion that the stated age of 65 was too arbitrary, as many individuals work well past this age, and the setting of any age would be haphazard at best. The wording of the amendment establishes the requirements for Emeritus membership as having been a regular member of ARVO for at least 10 consecutive years and no longer actively engaged in vision research.

(continued on page 3)
At its Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) announced the election of new Trustees from the Anatomy & Physiology (AP) and Glaucoma (GL) Sections, as well as the President-Elect and Vice President-Elect for the coming year.

Robert Ritch, MD from the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary was elected to a five-year term as GL Trustee, assuming the office previously held by Robert Weinreb, MD of UC San Diego.

Dr. Ritch is Surgeon Director and Chief of Glaucoma Services at the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary, New York City and Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology at The New York Medical College, Valhalla, New York. He has devoted his career to broadening the understanding of the nature of glaucoma and innovation in the medical, laser, and surgical treatment of glaucoma. Dr. Ritch has been a member of ARVO since 1977 and has served on its Program Committee. He is also active in the American Academy of Ophthalmology, serves on an Advisory Committee of the International Council of Ophthalmology, and the Program Committee of the American Ophthalmological Society. His research interests include ocular imaging, angle closure, glaucoma, and secondary glaucoma.

Martine Jager, MD, PhD from Leiden University in The Netherlands was elected to a five-year term as AP Trustee, assuming the office previously held by Edward Howes, MD of UC San Francisco.

Dr. Jager is head of the laboratory of Immuno-Ophthalmology, in the Department of Ophthalmology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands. She has been an ARVO Member since 1990 and has also served on the ARVO Program Committee. Dr. Jager is a member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Dutch and British Societies of Immunology, and serves on the Ophthalmic Oncology Task Force. Her research interests include uveal melanoma, ocular immunology (corneal transplantation, herpes, ocular immune privilege), and ocular surface diseases.

Officers Elected
The Board of Trustees elected Gary Abrams, MD from Wayne State University to the office of President-Elect, and Thomas Yorio, PhD from the University of North Texas as Vice President-Elect.

Trustees Nominated
Members of the Visual Psychophysics & Physiological Optics (VI), Retinal Cell Biology (RC), and Immunology & Microbiology (IM) Sections nominated successor Trustees for election at the 2004 Business Meetings of those particular Sections. Nominated were; from VI, Donald Hood, PhD and Janette Atkinson, PhD; from RC, Barry Winkler, PhD and John Penn, PhD; and from IM, Todd Margolis, MD, PhD.

The ARVO Board of Trustees has over-all responsibility for the business and affairs of ARVO. It consists of one elected Trustee from each of the 13 Scientific Sections that constitute the Association. The Board ensures that all ARVO sponsored or supported activities are consistent with the Association’s mission to promote and support eye and vision research. The Board sets policy; monitors the activities of the committees and interest groups; interacts with other organizations; and develops an annual budget and allocates Association resources.

2003–2004 Officers
Sally S. Atherton, PhD
President
Joseph C. Besharse, PhD
Vice President
Oliver J. Braddick, PhD
Vice President
Gary W. Abrams, MD
President-Elect
Thomas Yorio, PhD
Vice President-Elect
Robert N. Weinreb, MD
Immediate Past President
Paul L. Kaufman, MD
Executive Vice President

ARVO Office
Joanne G. Angle
Executive Director
Kimberly M. O’Sullivan
Publications Coordinator
12300 Twinbrook Parkway, Suite 250
Rockville, MD 20852-1606
Phone: (240) 221-2900
Fax: (240) 221-0370

2004 Membership Renewal
Avoid the last minute rush!

Renewal invoices have been mailed to all ARVO members. This is the only invoice you will receive. Remember that dues must be paid before you can access the abstract submission site. Save time and postage by renewing online by credit card at www.arvo.org.

2004 Membership Renewal
www.arvo.org
Committee Updates

Advocacy
In addition to monitoring issues in the US Congress related to the National Eye Institute (NEI) budget and research regulation, the Committee is planning its second “International Public Policy and Research Advocacy Symposium,” scheduled for April 26, 2004, at the ARVO Annual Meeting. A summary of presentations from the first symposium are available at www.arvo.org/committeeadvocacy/advocacy.asp.

This is an important element in successfully achieving the Committee’s larger goal of broadening the scope of ARVO’s advocacy activities to support members outside the US.

Animals in Research
In June 2003, the Committee provided comment on proposed USDA guidelines for the maintenance of medical records for animals used in laboratory research. A copy of this comment can be found at www.arvo.org/committee/animalsinresearch/animalresearch.asp. The Committee is planning an exciting workshop for the 2004 Annual Meeting entitled, “Practical Issues in the Use of Animal Models.” This workshop is scheduled for Monday, April 26. ARVO President, Sally Atherton, PhD, has approved the ARC Chair, Jeffrey Kiel, PhD to be the ARVO representative to the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International replacing Maureen Powers, PhD, whose term expired.

Commercial Relationships
Building on the interest and success of their 2003 workshop on this topic, the Committee will again host a workshop at the 2004 Annual Meeting on the issue of intellectual property. This year’s workshop will focus on working with a tech-transfer office and the impact of market forces. This workshop is scheduled for April 27.

Diversity
In planning its workshop for the 2004 Annual Meeting, scheduled for April 25, the Committee is working with the International Members Committee to address “The Trials and Tribulations of International Scientists.” This workshop will focus on the hurdles international researchers face relating to training, funding, and travel.

Each year, a Subcommittee of the Diversity Issues Committee coordinates a program to educate local high school students about the importance of research by providing educational seminars and tours of the ARVO meeting. These students are a diverse group; bright, motivated and interested in science and health care professions. You can show your support by giving tours of the Meeting for 90 minutes on Tuesday morning April 27, 2004. For more information, please contact the High School Education coordinator, Jeffrey J. Walline, OD, PhD at walline.1@osu.edu.

Ethics and Regulations for Clinical Research
The Committee will address the issue of “Privacy Rights and HIPAA Regulations: Impact on Human Research” in its workshop, scheduled for April 25 at the Annual Meeting. In planning for this workshop, the Committee will be collecting data from ARVO members regarding the impact of HIPAA in their institutions. Please watch for this survey in the coming weeks.

International Members
The Committee continues to monitor the changing regulations governing the issuance of travel visas for international researchers traveling to the US (see page 7). The Committee is also working to secure additional travel grants for international members presenting at the ARVO Annual Meeting.

Members-in-Training
Each year, the Committee hosts a number of events at the annual meeting for students, post-docs, and fellows including a Career Fair, Networking Reception, Pizza with a Prof, and a workshop dealing with career planning issues and opportunities. See the Annual Meeting Program Summary Book (mailed in March) for a full schedule of 2004 activities.

The Committee also encourages all ARVO members to visit the ARVO Career Center, an online job placement service, available year-round on the ARVO Web site at www.arvo.org/careers/career.asp.

Long Range Planning
The Committee is pleased to announce the successful completion of the 1998–2003 ARVO Strategic Plan and the launch of the new Plan for 2004–2009, which can be reviewed at www.arvo.org/aboutarvo/stratplan.asp. There are many volunteer opportunities to assist in the plan’s implementation over the next five years. All ARVO members are encouraged to review the plan and volunteer to serve in an area of interest.

Online Surveys and Voting
In the next six months, several surveys related to the Strategic Plan and other ARVO projects will be conducted online. In addition, voting in the Trustee elections this spring will also be conducted electronically (with paper ballot option). Notifications for these surveys and election will be sent by e-mail. Please take advantage of the speed and convenience of this electronic format. Also please take a moment to check the member database on the Web site to ensure that we have your proper e-mail address. Log on to www.arvo.org and click on the “Membership Directory” link to review and, if necessary, update your information.

As we maintain a standard of quality we all have grown to expect, our focus remains the needs of you, our members. I hope you share my enthusiasm as ARVO continues to strive for excellence in the vision and research community, and I wish you continued success in your eye and vision related studies.

Sincerely,

Sally S. Atherton, PhD, President

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Sally S. Atherton, PhD, President
“Career Vision” Helps ARVO Members See Possible Future

Choosing a career can be a lot like buying a new car, according to Chandra Louise, PhD, who spoke during a session entitled, “Your Career Vision: Focus on the Future,” during the 2003 Annual Meeting. To find a car, or career, that is the best for you requires careful research. Although making the wrong choice can be costly, many may put more effort into researching their next vehicle than into selecting their next job.

The session, organized by the ARVO Diversity Issues Committee, was loaded with concrete advice for students searching for their first professional position as well as for experienced professionals considering a career change. Dr. Louise suggested both groups should take enough time to thoroughly consider their career choices. She noted that less than one-third of doctoral-level graduates pursue traditional academic careers. Alternatives range from jobs in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to less commonly considered choices such as publishers and recruitment firms. Government employment and starting your own business are other possibilities for those seeking a rewarding career. Dr. Louise also advised that the secret to long-term job satisfaction is in matching your career choice to your natural abilities and talents. Success in one’s career is best self-determined without too much regard for others’ expectations.

Sophia Tragoulis, a PhD student from the Cooperative Research Center for Eye Research and Technology at the University of New South Wales, found the session to be a worthwhile experience. “I’ll use her [Dr. Louise’s] experience to take my career search to the next level,” said Ms. Tragoulis.

Dr. Louise is president of her own consulting firm, PharmaSupport, and is the author of the book, Jump-Start Your Career in Bioscience. Her presentation at the 2003 Annual Meeting can be found on her website at www.pharmasupport.com.

John A. Shoemaker, chair of the ARVO Publications Subcommittee prepared the above reports highlighting the 2003 Annual Meeting.
Workshop Helps Members Understand NIH Peer Review

by John A. Shoemaker

The Academy of Optometry Student Travel Fellowship Recipients

Looking for Funding?

New AEVRI/NAEVR Director

Travel Grants

James Jorkasky has been appointed Executive Director of the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVR) and the Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (AEVR). He will succeed Edward McManus who managed AEVRI/NAEVR since 2000.

Jorkasky, a chemist by training, has nearly 25 years of health care policy experience, he directed the Ophthalmic Sector, representing ophthalmic manufacturers on product approval and reimbursement issues and working closely with the ophthalmic and optometric professional societies while serving as Vice President, Membership and Communications, at the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed).

ARVO is a founding member of AEVRI/NAEVR.

Each year the Academy of Optometry offers a number of travel fellowships. Each student is given $500.00 to attend the ARVO meeting. Fellowships are awarded for accomplishment and potential in optometric research and education.

The Academy of Optometry is honored to present this year’s ARVO Student Travel Fellowship recipients: Melissa D. Bailey, Shrikant R. Bharadwaj, Marcelline Ciuffreda, Lindsay Florkey, Ying Guo, Sanjeev Kasthurirangan, Pete Kollbaum, Srihari Narayanan, Fei Pan, Patrick T. Quaid, Aparna Raghuram (not pictured), Nalini V. Rangaswamy, Mitra Sehi, Rajaraman Suryakumar, and Abhiram S. Vilupuru.

The Academy of Optometry Student Travel Fellowship

The ARVO Web site has updated its Funding Source Guide and has added a listing of recent Grant and Fellowship Announcements, such as, Post-Residency Training Fellowships at the Wilmer Institute. Go to www.arvo.org/awardsfunding/guidebok.asp. Another useful resource is www.grantsnet.org which contains a searchable database of funding sources.
2004 Abstract Submissions

Through www.arvo.org, the online abstract submission and revision Web site opens October 15, 2003 and closes on December 5, 2003 at 11:59 PM EST. December 7, 2003 at 11:59 PM EST is the latest you can revise an abstract. NOTE: An abstract must be completed by the December 5 deadline in order to revise through December 7. ARVO staff will not revise or correct abstracts.

Only an ARVO member can be a First Author on an abstract. A non-member cannot be a First Author on an abstract. You can become an ARVO member online at www.arvo.org. First Authors and all co-authors must disclose all commercial relationships at the time of submission and presentation. You must indicate the appropriate commercial relationship code and the name of any firms that correspond to the codes indicated. Paper presenters must indicate this information on a slide at the time of presentation, and poster presenters must include this information on their poster.

Online Abstract Search and Program Planner

The Online Abstract Search and Program Planner, available after February 23, 2004 at www.arvo.org, will include a searchable database of authors, titles, full text of abstracts, and other program information. This program will again include searching capabilities, multiple abstract printing options including full sessions in PDF format, and a link to purchase a Print-on-Demand Abstract Book. Again available this year, your Meeting itinerary can be downloaded to a Personal Data Assistant.

Program Summary Book and CD-ROM

The CD-ROM, both PC and Mac compatible, will feature enhanced loading and speed to provide more efficient use and data access. In addition, similar to the online program, there will be advanced searching capabilities, multiple abstract printing options, including full sessions in PDF format, and a link to purchase a Print-on-Demand Abstract Book. The Program Summary Book and CD-ROM will mail together in early March and delivery can take up to six weeks. Visit www.arvo.org to check your information in the Membership Directory Search to ensure that ARVO has your correct mailing address.

Air and Sea Show

The Air and Sea Show will be held at the end of ARVO, instead of the beginning. This should decrease interference in traveling to and from the Convention Center. The Air and Sea Show could be a great way to end your week and add some adventure to your ARVO experience!
New Visa Requirements May Impact Annual Meeting Travel

Earlier this year, the United States Department of State enacted new procedures that will impact many international attendees to the ARVO Annual Meeting. Visa applications are now subject to a greater degree of scrutiny than in the past. For many applicants, a personal appearance interview is required as a standard part of visa processing, even where one may not have been required before. Applicants affected by these procedures will be informed of the need for additional screening at the time they submit their applications and should expect delays. The time needed for adjudication of individual cases will continue to be difficult to predict. The need for an interview will mean additional coordination with the embassy or consulate in order to schedule an interview appointment.

Additionally, travelers from countries that participate in the Visa Waiver Program should be aware of a new rule requiring that passports be machine-readable. Citizens of 27 countries can visit the US for up to 90 days without a visa—and the courtesy is returned to US citizens visiting those nations. The Visa Waiver Program applies to the nations of: Western Europe; Slovenia; Australia; New Zealand; Japan; Brunei; and Singapore. However, The Washington Post reports that as of October 1, 2003, visitors from those countries will be turned away unless their passport is electronically coded. Examples of the enforcement of this new rule include the denial of entry for travelers without visas from Belgium, whose passports US officials consider easy to counterfeit and for the half of all French passports that are not machine-readable.

ARVO recommends that all members begin the process now to determine the individual requirements that will impact travel planning for the 2004 Annual Meeting attendance and to begin the visa application process if necessary. Letters from ARVO stating participation in the Annual Meeting can be acquired by e-mailing mem@arvo.org. Visit www.travel.state.gov for information regarding visa applications, fees and processing.

Sunday Symposia

Crystallins in Eye Pathology—They are Not Just in the Lens!
Myopia, Impact, Mechanisms, Treatment
Neuroprotection: Where Are We Now?
Zebrafish: A Model System to Study Ocular Development, Retinal Function and Disease
Basic/ Clinical Lecture: Immunology of the Ocular Surface

Minisymposia

Extracellular Matrices of the Eye Organized by the AP Section
Gene Therapy Organized by the BI Section
Optical Aberrations, Vision and Imaging Organized by the CO and VI Sections
Sex-Based Biology in Ocular Disease and Treatment Organized by the CO and CL Sections
Honey, I Randomized the Kids: Studies in Pediatric Vision Organized by the CL Section
Growth Factor Signaling in Lens Formation: From Induction to Regeneration Organized by the LE Section
Ins and Outs for Aqueous Flow Organized by the PH Section
Neurotrophic and Anti-angiogenic Effects of PEDF in the Eye Organized by the RC Section
Stem Cells in the Retina Organized by the RC Section
Steroids and Other Anti-angiogenic Agents to Treat Retinal Vascular Disease Organized by the RE Section
Applied Neurophysiology: Using Noninvasive Electrodiagnostic Measures to Understand Visual Function in Diseases that Affect the Visual Pathways Organized by the VN Section
Visual Cortex Maldevelopment and Repair in Strabismus Organized by the EY Section

2004 Exhibitors

Are there companies that you would like to see included in the 2004 Annual Meeting Exhibitors? Please forward suggestions to bhollis@arvo.org.

2004 Housing Reservations

All 2004 Housing Reservation Forms that were received at the Housing Desk during the 2003 Annual Meeting have been processed and confirmations have been sent. If you have not received a confirmation for your 2004 reservation, contact the Housing Bureau through e-mail at gflhousing@broward.org or fax: (954) 765-4414 for assistance.

If you have not already made a hotel reservation for 2004, go to www.arvo.org and click on the Hotel Reservation link. All hotels listed in the 2004 ARVO Housing Block will participate in the Shuttle Bus Service—a great way to beat traffic!
ARVO Career Fair Attracts Hopefuls

by John A. Shoemaker

Prospective employers and hopeful candidates met at the Second Annual ARVO Career Fair held at the 2003 Annual Meeting. Eighteen employers ranging from universities to pharmaceutical companies were on hand and eager to talk about career options and specific job openings with Annual Meeting attendees.

Ernest Talarico, a doctoral candidate in gross anatomy at the Indiana University School of Medicine, was among the ARVO Members-in-Training that attended the Fair. “I’m looking for a tenure-track teaching position where I can set-up a lab in eye research, but I’m open-minded to other opportunities.” After visiting the employer’s tables, Mr. Talarico was happy to have received “a few nibbles,” although his ideal job remained elusive.

A perfect match hadn’t occurred yet for Aron Shapiro, either. He was at the Career Fair representing Andover Eye Associates & Ophthalmic Research Associates. He was looking for a full-time clinical ophthalmologist with corneal research experience. “Lots of people, but no luck yet. I hope we’ll have lots more interested job-seekers throughout the rest of the day.”

Discover the Career Center!

ARVO members can post their Personal Profiles at no charge! Just go to www.arvo.org, click on “Career Center” and Enter Your Profile. Employers are advertising here to reach the best targeted audience. Recent position listings encompassed a broad scope of vision-related opportunities, including Postdocs, Research Associates, Director of Research, Glaucoma Specialist, Optical Engineer, Associate Professor, Medical Director and more!

Financial Report

At a meeting held on May 3, 2003, attended by ARVO’s Board of Trustees, Thomas Yorio, PhD, Vice President-Elect, presented the results of the audit of the financial accounts for the year ended December 31, 2002. Upon the advice of the Finance Committee, the report was accepted as presented. A surplus of $174,095 was recorded for the year. Please refer to ARVO’s Web site at www.arvo.org/financial/financial.asp for a summary report of the 2002 revenue and expenses by major category.

Preparation of the 2004 budget is underway. The Board has approved an increase in dues for 2004 with $5.00 to support IOVS/JOV, as designated by the members eligible to receive IOVS, and $5.00 for all members to support ARVO activities.
Theodore P. Williams, PhD, a prominent vision researcher and long time member of ARVO passed away in his sleep on May 2, 2003. Ted was born and raised in Marianna, PA. He attended Muskingum College, where he majored in chemistry-mathematics and played football. While his science was rigorous, many will remember the energy and creativity that he put into teaching. Not surprisingly, he was the recipient of a university-wide award for Excellence in Teaching from Florida State University. He also received special recognition at an international, scientific conference for “Best Contact with the Audience.” He is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann, three sons, Philip, Peter and Craig and two daughters, Polly and Laura.
A report prepared and released by a Special Committee of the National Research Council and the Institute of Medicine, at the request of Congress, advised that the National Institutes of Health (NIH) should combine some functions and focus more on interdisciplinary work. The hope is this will allow NIH to address concerns that it has become fragmented and hard to manage.

It was also recommended that the National Institute on Drug Abuse be combined with the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the National Institute of General Medical Sciences merge with the National Human Genome Research Institute. However, the panel stated a wholesale consolidation of institutes and centers is unnecessary because it would be costly, could slow decision-making and there are other ways to improve coordination within the NIH.

This is a victory for the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research (NAEVER) and ARVO, both of whom advocated vigorously for the independence of the National Eye Institute (NEI) and voiced opposition to the proposed folding of NEI into a broader neuroscience institute.

NAEVR past Executive Director, Ed McManus, organized a coalition of more than 20 organizations, most of whom were outside the eye and vision community to present the argument for preserving the independent institutes that make up the NIH. ARVO members Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD and Marco Zarbin, MD joined McManus in presenting testimony before the Committee.

The Committee’s report called for Congress to fund a new program for special projects that would be managed from the NIH director’s office. “Despite our conclusion that widespread consolidation of the institutes and centers would be unwise now, we do not expect NIH’s organizational structure to remain frozen,” committee chair Harold T. Shapiro, a Princeton University professor of economics and public affairs, said in a statement. “We are convinced that many of the goals that might be achieved through large-scale consolidation could be achieved more rapidly and effectively through other organizational mechanisms.”

The panel recommended a six-year term for the NIH director and five-year terms for heads of institutes and centers. Currently there are no term limits. Authority to hire and dismiss heads of institutes and centers should be transferred from the Health and Human Services secretary to the NIH director was also recommended by the panel.

In addition to these two new programs, NEI will continue to support its four existing programs: NEI Small Research Grants for Data Analysis (R03), NEI Small Grants for Pilot Research (R03), NEI Clinical Study Planning Grants (R21), and NEI Clinical Vision Research Development Awards (R21). These applications will continue to be reviewed in study sections organized by the NEI.

These six grant programs vary considerably in scientific purpose, the years of support and dollar level provided, the nature and length of the application, and the locus of peer review. Applicants should consult the NEI Web site (Research Funding) at www.nei.nih.gov, to determine which program best meets their specific needs. NEI encourages ARVO members to contact an NEI Program Director at (301) 451-2020 for assistance in selecting the appropriate grant mechanism.

### NEI Budget Update

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After a long and contentious budget process, the NEI received an appropriation in FY 2003 of $633.1 million, an increase of $53.1 million or 9.2 percent compared to FY 2002. The NIH as a whole received $27.0 billion, an increase of $3.5 billion or 14.9 percent, compared to FY 2002. While the NIH increase nearly completed the goal undertaken by Congress in 1998 of doubling the NIH budget in five years, NEI’s increase over the same period was approximately 85 percent.

The FY 2004 Budget is still working its way through the halls of Congress. The Administration requested a budget of $648.3 million for the NEI, an increase of $15.2 million or 2.4 percent over FY 2003. For NIH, the Administration requested $27.9 billion, an increase of $0.9 billion or 3.4 percent. On July 10, 2003, the House narrowly passed the FY 2004 Labor/HHS appropriation bill by a vote of 215 to 208 without Democratic support. The House bill would provide funding identical to the Administration’s FY 2004 budget request described above. The Senate Appropriations Committee completed its mark up of the FY 2004 appropriation bill on June 26, 2003. This bill would provide $657.2 million for the NEI, an increase of $24.1 million or 3.8 percent compared to FY 2003, and $28.1 billion for NIH, equal to a $1.1 billion increase, or 4.1 percent. At press time, the full Senate had yet to take up the Labor/HHS appropriations bill where action is expected to be contentious, particularly in regards to funding for the Department of Education, which is also included in the massive bill.

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NEI/NIH

THE EYE SITE Tour Continues

The Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers traveled to Union Station in Washington, DC—the last stop on a four-month tour of the Washington, DC metropolitan area. On July 16, 2003, the local Host Committee held an opening ceremony and vision expo at Union Station, which featured:

- Keynote speakers Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, director of the National Institutes of Health, and Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD, director of the NEI.
- Awards to Congressional champions of vision research, including Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Representative Michael Capuano (D-MA).

Since THE EYE SITE tour was launched in April 2001, the NEI has:

- Provided more than 25 million people in 20 states and the District of Columbia with the opportunity to visit the exhibit and learn about low vision.
- Distributed more than 45,000 publications.
- Worked with more than 65 vision-related host organizations.

Planning is underway now for the 2004 tour. For a tour schedule and for more information on how to sponsor the exhibit in your state, visit the NEI Web site (Education Programs) at www.nei.nih.gov, to complete the online application.

NIH Programs Repay Student Loans for Health Researchers

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Loan Repayment Programs offer up to $35,000 per year to repay student loans of scientists, physicians, dentists, and other health professionals willing to commit to a career in clinical, pediatric, health disparities or contraception and infertility research. Applicants must have doctoral-level degrees and commit to spend at least 50 percent of their time for two years conducting qualified research.

The online application opens September 1 and closes December 31, 2003.

See www.lrp.nih.gov for program information and to apply online.

NEI Offers Two New Grant Programs

The NEI is participating in two new NIH-wide programs for Small Grants (R03) and Exploratory/Developmental Grants (R21). Under these two new programs, NEI will accept investigator-initiated grant applications that cover all aspects of vision research. These applications will be reviewed in study sections organized by the NIH Center for Scientific Review.

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NEI Request for Applications

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The research should focus on improving utilization of current scientific knowledge in visual disease prevention and treatment. It is expected that applications in response to this RFA will be from interdisciplinary teams of vision scientists and health communication experts knowledgeable about strategies, tactics, development, dissemination, and evaluation of health information based upon scientific discovery. Applications are due November 12, 2003.

For more information on this and other new funding opportunities, please visit the NEI Web site (Research Funding) at www.nei.nih.gov.

National Advisory Eye Council

Ruben Adler, MD
Roy W. Beck, MD, PhD
Suraj P. Bhat, MD, PhD
Martha C. Constantine-Paton, PhD
Gordon E. Legge, PhD
Mildred M. G. Olivier, MD
Lt. Col. J. Brian Reed, MD (ex officio)
Richard J. Salem, JD
Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD (Chair)
Lois E. H. Smith, MD, PhD
P. Sarita Soni, OD
J. Wayne Streilein, MD
Janey L. Wiggs, MD, PhD
Karla Zadnik, OD, PhD
Marco A. Zarbin, MD, PhD (ex officio)

ARVO members are indicated in bold.

THE EYE SITE Tour Continues

The Traveling Exhibit on Low Vision for Shopping Centers traveled to Union Station in Washington, DC—the last stop on a four-month tour of the Washington, DC metropolitan area. On July 16, 2003, the local Host Committee held an opening ceremony and vision expo at Union Station, which featured:

- Keynote speakers Elias A. Zerhouni, MD, director of the National Institutes of Health, and Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD, director of the NEI.
- Awards to Congressional champions of vision research, including Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and Representative Michael Capuano (D-MA).

Since THE EYE SITE tour was launched in April 2001, the NEI has:

- Provided more than 25 million people in 20 states and the District of Columbia with the opportunity to visit the exhibit and learn about low vision.
- Distributed more than 45,000 publications.
- Worked with more than 65 vision-related host organizations.

Planning is underway now for the 2004 tour. For a tour schedule and for more information on how to sponsor the exhibit in your state, visit the NEI Web site (Education Programs) at www.nei.nih.gov, to complete the online application.

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Center for Scientific Review Renames Study Sections

In an effort to make the review focus of study sections more transparent, the Center for Scientific Review (CSR) has given names to several study sections that were previously designated by their Integrated Review Group (IRG) affiliation and a number or letter (e.g., VISA, VISB, and VISC for study sections in the Visual Sciences IRG).

VISA has been renamed Anterior Eye Disease (AED), VISB has been renamed Central Visual Processing (CVP) and VISC has been renamed Biology and Diseases of the Posterior Eye.

Reviewer membership and review focus of these study sections has not changed.

Journal of Vision is Growing!

In year three of its existence and on the heels of becoming indexed by MEDLINE/PubMed earlier this year, the Journal of Vision (JOV) is experiencing a significant increase in the number of article submissions and publications. JOV is on pace to more than double last year's number of submissions. Since March 2003, JOV has steadily published a new issue each month with a total of five articles per issue. With many articles currently in production, the boom is just beginning.

Faster Decisions for Authors

In 2003, JOV has achieved more than a 30 percent decrease in the average time required to return a first decision to authors. Currently, the average is just over six weeks. Ultimately, Editor-in-Chief Andrew B. Watson, PhD, hopes to reduce this figure to a mere five weeks.

Special Issue Alert


Don't miss the October 1, 2003 submission deadline for the special issue on “Optics in Vision”. Expect this issue in February 2004. For more information, see http://journalofvision.org/jov/info/optics.html.

Want to Submit to JOV?

Consult the “Information for Authors” link on the Journal of Vision Web site at http://journalofvision.org. Then go to http://jov.manuscriptcentral.com to submit your manuscript online.

Sign Up for E-mail Alerts

Go to http://journalofvision.org and click the “Subscribe” link in the upper right corner to subscribe to JOV’s alerting service for new articles and issues. It’s fast and free!

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■ indexed in MEDLINE/PubMed
■ abundant online journal enhancements such as movies, internal links to content, external bibliographic links, and much more
■ papers published in HTML and PDF formats
■ access to abstracts presented at other society meetings
■ highest quality standards for format and scientific content

Any Questions?

Contact the JOV Editorial Office at support@journalofvision.org or call (240) 221-2930.
Call for Letters to the Editor

Have you read an article in IOVS that is of particular interest to you? Or perhaps, one with which you disagree? IOVS Online welcomes your submission to Letters to the Editor. Letters are peer reviewed and may correct errors, provide support or agreement and offer different points of view, clarification, or additional information. Letters are published online and referenced in the printed journal. Submit your letters through IOVS’ online submission system at http://iovs.manuscriptcentral.com.

IOVS Online Adds New Options

IOVS Online is adding new options for users. For instance, a palm abstract delivery service will be available by December 2003. This service will provide the table of contents, titles, and abstracts in a format optimized for Palm OS. The Email-a-friend option allows a reader to recommend an article by e-mail to a colleague. Other new updates that have been implemented include GenBank links, where a hyperlink is created for a GenBank sequence in an article; GenBank release letters, which provide release instructions to the GenBank database so author supplied sequences can be released to the public and CrossRef Matching. CrossRef’s service for creating hyperlinks from cited references to full text articles. Stay tuned for further updates.

Activate your Online Subscription to IOVS

All ARVO members are entitled to view full text articles online and utilize many special features of the online journal. To activate full online access:

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2) Enter your ARVO membership number (search available at https://secure.arvo.org/cgi-bin/search/membership.cgi)
3) Click ‘Submit’ button
4) Complete online form as instructed
5) Click ‘Send Form’ button to submit information

You will receive confirmation that the activation was successful. You will be prompted to sign in with your User Name and Password when you click on a ‘Full Text’ link.

Have you forgotten your User Name or Password? Go to www.iovs.org/cgi/recnamepwd

For other common inquiries, please visit www.iovs.org/subscriptions/#memsub

Still need help? Contact the IOVS Editorial Office at jsong@arvo.org or (240) 221-2923 OR go to www.iovs.org/cgi/feedback to submit your questions and/or comments online.

Confused over Impact Factor?

The 2002 Impact Factor is based on cites in 2002 to articles published in 2001 (1,737 articles) and 2000 (2,567 articles) for a total of 4,304 articles, divided by the number of articles published by IOVS in those two years (470 in 2001, 582 in 2000) yielding a total of 1,052. Therefore, 4304/1052 = 4.091.

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How does ISI Calculate Impact Factor?

New for 2004: IOVS Reviewer Workshop

For the first time, IOVS will sponsor a workshop dedicated to reviewing and educating its reviewers. Some of the potential items for discussion include correctly identifying areas of expertise; preparing and expediting the review process and how to recognizing conflicts of interest; plus adherence to the ARVO Animal Rights Statement and Helsinki Statement.

Make plans to attend this workshop, currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2004.

www.arvo.org
2004 ARVO Awards Announced

Please join us in congratulating the recipients of the 2004 ARVO Annual Awards. The awards will be presented at the ARVO Annual Meeting, April 25–29, 2004 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Proctor Medal

Charlotte E. Remé, MD
University Eye Clinic
Zurich

Friedenwald Award

Harry A. Quigley, MD
Johns Hopkins University

Weisenfeld Award

David H. Abramson, MD
Cornell Medical School

Cogan Award

Simon W. M. John, PhD
The Jackson Laboratory

Special Recognition Awards

Yoshihito Honda, MD, PhD
Kyoto University/Osaka Red Cross Hospital

Robert N. Weinreb, MD
University of California San Diego

Edward L. Howes, MD
University of California San Francisco

2005 ARVO Annual Awards

Call for Nominations

Nomination Deadline
March 2, 2004

Members of the vision community are invited to nominate their esteemed colleagues for the prestigious ARVO Awards to be presented at the ARVO Annual Meeting, April 30–May 5, 2005.

Proctor Medal

Outstanding research in the basic or clinical sciences as applied to ophthalmology.

Friedenwald Award

Outstanding research in the basic or clinical sciences as applied to ophthalmology.

Mildred Weisenfeld Award for Excellence in Ophthalmology

Distinguished scholarly contributions to the clinical practice of ophthalmology.

Cogan Award

Contributions to research in ophthalmology or visual sciences directly related to disorders of the human eye or visual system, by a promising individual researcher under 40 years of age.

Kupfer Award

Distinguished public service on behalf of eye and vision research.

Special Recognition Award

Outstanding service to ARVO and/or the vision research community.

For complete nomination information, please visit our Web site at www.arvo.org/awardsfunding/awards.asp.

For more information, contact Barbara Hollis at bhollis@arvo.org or (240) 221-2940.