

FOVA

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Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research

A coalition of national
organizations committed to quality
care for America's veterans

Executive Committee

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June 28, 2007

The Honorable Daniel K. Akaka
Chairman, Committee on Veterans Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
Ranking Member, Committee on Veterans Affairs
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Akaka and Ranking Member Craig:

On behalf of the Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) thank you for supporting an increased fiscal year 2008 appropriation for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. FOVA is a diverse coalition of more than 80 national academic, medical, and scientific societies; voluntary health and patient advocacy associations; and veteran-focused organizations that advocate appropriate funding for the research and health programs that serve the nation's veterans. Your leadership, which has resulted in a substantial increase for VA research funding, will ensure the best medical care for veterans and ultimately the nation as a whole.

In past years, VA researchers have made remarkable discoveries in the biomedical sciences and major advances to the standards of medical care in this country and throughout the world. The excellence of their work is continually recognized in medical literature and mainstream media. The increased funding you recommended will help preserve one of the nation's premier research endeavors and allow VA investigators to continue important work on deployment health, rehabilitation, quality improvement, and chronic diseases. Additionally, the VA will be able to expand research into conditions prevalent to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

As your letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs states, "future VA research can be expected to lead to other groundbreaking innovations, as long as the program has the funding to get the job done." We hope you will continue to support the VA Medical and Prosthetics Research Program throughout conference and in future years as VA embarks on breakthrough research in genomic medicine.

Once again, thank you for your leadership on this important matter. To discuss issues pertaining to the VA research program or for any assistance as the appropriations process continues, please contact one of the members of the FOVA Executive Committee.

Sincerely,

The FOVA Membership

Administrators of Internal Medicine
 Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine
 Alliance for Aging Research
 American Academy of Neurology
 American Academy of Ophthalmology
 American Society of Pain Medicine
 American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
 American Association of Anatomists
 American Association of Colleges of Nursing
 American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
 American Association of Neurological Surgeons
 American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Nurses
 American Association of Spinal Cord Injury Psychologists and Social Workers
 American College of Physicians
 American College of Rheumatology
 American Dental Education Association
 American Federation for Medical Research
 American Gastroenterological Association
 American Geriatrics Society
 American Heart Association
 American Hospital Association
 American Hospital Association
 American Lung Association
 American Military Retirees Association
 American Occupational Therapy Association
 American Optometric Association
 American Paraplegia Society
 American Physiological Society
 American Podiatric Medical Association
 American Psychiatric Association
 American Psychological Association
 American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 American Society for Microbiology
 American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
 American Society of Anesthesiologists
 American Society of Hematology
 American Society of Nephrology
 American Thoracic Society
 Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International
 Association of Academic Health Centers
 Association of American Medical Colleges
 Association of Professors of Medicine
 Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine
 Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
 Association of Specialty Professors
 Association of VA Chiefs of Medicine
 Association of VA Nurse Anesthetists
 Blinded Veterans Association
 Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine
 Coalition for American Trauma Care
 Coalition for Health Services Research
 Digestive Disease National Coalition
 Congress of Neurological Surgeons
 Digestive Disease National Coalition
 Disabled American Veterans
 Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
 Gerontological Society of America
 Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
 Legion of Valor of the USA, Inc.
 Medicine-Pediatrics Program Directors Association
 Military Officers Association of America
 National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
 National Alliance on Mental Illness
 National Association for Uniformed Services
 National Association of VA Dermatologists
 National Association of VA Physicians and Dentists
 National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations
 Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
 Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation
 Pain Care Coalition
 Paralyzed Veterans of America
 Research!America
 Society for Investigative Dermatology
 Society for Neuroscience
 Society for Women's Health Research
 Society of General Internal Medicine
 The American Pain Foundation
 The Endocrine Society
 The FAIR Foundation
 United Spinal Association
 Veterans Affairs Physician Assistant Association
 Vietnam Veterans of America