FOVA Recommendations for FY 2023, Department of Veterans Affairs

**MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAM**

<table>
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<th>FY 2022 Enacted (P.L. 117-103)</th>
<th>FY 2023 President’s Budget Request</th>
<th>FOVA FY 2023 Recommendation</th>
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<tr>
<td>$882 million</td>
<td>$946 million*</td>
<td>$980 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>$+67 million (8.2%) above FY 2021 program level</td>
<td>$+64 million (7.3%) above FY 2022 program level</td>
<td>$+98 million (11.1%) above FY 2022 program level</td>
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*Including $30 million in mandatory from the American Rescue Plan

FOVA recognizes the demands of many important programs for America’s veterans in the Military Construction, VA, and Related Agencies spending bill, and urges Congress to continue its reliable and robust growth in the VA research program without recissions. FOVA’s FY 2023 recommendation of $980 million for VA research would enhance the investment in veteran-centric research on a trajectory of meaningful growth above inflation, allowing for sustained support for efforts to address long-term health impacts of COVID-19, health disparities, and increase clinical trials access, while renewing support for groundbreaking programs like the Million Veteran Program (MVP), VA’s participation in the Cancer Moonshot Initiative, and research on chronic and emerging needs of our nation’s veterans. Increased funding for the VA research program will also support researchers as they recover from slowed research progress during the pandemic and allow for additional investments to support the strained IT capacity through computational science purchases to enhance the collection and use of big data. Sustained and predictable funding growth for VA research is imperative to help ensure the best return on investment in improving the health of veterans and all Americans.

**PHYSICAL AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) INFRASTRUCTURE**

State-of-the-art research requires an investment in state-of-the-art facilities, technology, and equipment. For decades, appropriations for construction, maintenance, and IT have not provided the resources VA needs to replace, maintain, or upgrade its aging research and IT infrastructure to support the research program. For FY 2023, FOVA recommends the following funding to support physical and IT research infrastructure:

**MAJOR AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION – at least $100 million**

A 2012 congressionally mandated report found a clear need for systematic infrastructure improvements for VA research laboratories. VA completed a Phase II assessment in 2020 of fewer than one-third of sites inspected in Phase I. Phase II findings show that while certain projects have received funding, significant deficiencies remain. Over $200 million was estimated to correct all deficiencies identified in the Phase II report, including $99.5 million in Priority 1 deficiencies, representing immediate needs such as life safety hazard corrections. FOVA believes designating funds specifically for research facilities is the only way to make significant improvements. For capital infrastructure, renovations, and maintenance, FOVA recommends at least $100 million for VA research facilities to address the most pressing repairs.

**OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY – at least $22 million**

VA’s Office of Information and Technology (OIT) is responsible for IT development and maintenance for programs including clinical, health management, benefits, security, and research. To advance and modernize the VA research program, OIT funding must be designated specifically for research use on a yearly basis. For FY 2023, FOVA recommends at least $22 million of the OIT budget to be assigned for VA research to support the purchase and maintenance of IT infrastructure, increase data storage and access capabilities, increase data security, increase interoperability with affiliated partners, and transition to more robust and functional cloud computing platforms.

FOVA was founded over 30 years ago to ensure that America’s veterans receive high-quality health care. Today, FOVA is a diverse coalition representing nearly 80 national academic, medical, and scientific societies; voluntary health and patient advocacy groups; and veteran-focused associations. FOVA works in concert with the Independent Budget veterans service organizations.
Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2023 Recommendation (75 as of 4/29/22)

- AcademyHealth
- Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)
- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Ophthalmology
- American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases
- American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
- American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy
- American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training
- American Association of the Colleges of Nursing
- American Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges
- American Brain Coalition
- American College of Physicians
- American College of Radiology
- American Dental Education Association
- American Gastroenterological Association
- American Geriatrics Society
- American Heart Association (AHA)
- American Liver Foundation
- American Massage Therapy Association
- American Occupational Therapy Association
- American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA)
- American Physical Therapy Association
- American Physiological Society
- American Psychiatric Association
- American Psychological Association
- American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics
- American Society of Nephrology
- American Spinal Injury Association
- American Surgical Association
- American Thoracic Society
- American Tinnitus Association
- American Urological Association
- Arthritis Foundation
- Associated Medical Schools of New York
- Association for Clinical and Translational Science
- Association of Academic Physiatrists
- Association of American Medical Colleges
- Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology
- Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers
- Association of University Anesthesiologists
- Association of University Professors of Neurology
Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2023 Recommendation, continued

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO)
Association of University Radiologists
Blinded Veterans Association
Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary of the USA Inc.
Clinical Research Forum
Coalition for Clinical and Translational Science
Cohen Veterans Bioscience
DAV (Disabled American Veterans)
Digestive Disease National Coalition
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation
Endocrine Society
Epilepsy Foundation
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
GBS|CIDP Foundation International
Interstitial Cystitis Association
LUNGevity Foundation
Lymphatic Education & Research Network
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Biomedical Research
National Association of Veterans’ Research & Education Foundations (NAVREF)
National Scleroderma Foundation
NephCure Kidney International
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Project Sleep
Prostate Cancer Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation
Sleep Research Society
Society for Neuroscience
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine (SAAAPM)
Society of General Internal Medicine
Vietnam Veterans of America