



## FOVA Recommendations for FY 2022, Department of Veterans Affairs

### MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

<u>FY 2020 Enacted (P.L. 116-94)</u>	<u>FY 2021 Enacted (P.L. 116-260)</u>	<u>FOVA FY 2022 Recommendation</u>
\$800 million	\$815 million	<b>\$902 million</b>
Prior year rescission: \$50 million	Prior year rescission: \$20 million	+\$87 million (10.7%) above FY 2021 program level

The coronavirus pandemic continues to place an unprecedented burden on medical researchers, including those conducting cutting-edge research at the Department of Veterans Affairs. 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 restore the VA research program to the sustained funding growth of recent years, without deleterious rescissions. FOVA’s FY 2022 recommendation of \$902 million for VA research would return the investment in veteran-centric research to a trajectory of meaningful growth above inflation, allowing for new efforts to address COVID-19, health disparities, and clinical trials access, while renewing support for groundbreaking programs like the Million Veteran Program (MVP) and research on chronic and emerging needs of our nation’s veterans. Included within the FY 2022 recommendation is \$29 million for additional investments needed to support the strained IT capacity, to be used for 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 2022, 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 - \$42 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 2022, FOVA recommends \$42 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.

**Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2022 Recommendation for VA Research (89 as of Feb. 24, 2021)**

Academic Consortium for Integrative Medicine & Health  
AcademyHealth  
Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine (AAIM)  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology  
American Academy of Neurology  
American Academy of Ophthalmology  
American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy  
American Association of Directors of Psychiatric Residency Training  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American Brain Coalition  
American College of Clinical Pharmacology  
American College of Neuropsychopharmacology  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American College of Physicians  
American College of Radiology  
American Dental Education Association  
American Gastroenterological Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Heart Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Massage Therapy Association  
American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Physiological Society  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Spinal Injury Association  
American Surgical Association (ASA)  
American Thoracic Society  
American Tinnitus Association  
American Urological Association  
Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY)  
Arthritis Foundation  
Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO)  
Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries  
Association of Academic Psychiatrists  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of Chairs of Departments of Physiology

**Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2022 Recommendation for VA Research, continued**

Association of Minority Health Professions Schools  
Association of Pathology Chairs  
Association of Psychologists in Academic Health Centers  
Association of University Anesthesiologists  
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology  
Association of University Radiologists  
Association of VA Hematology/Oncology  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists (AVANA)  
Blinded Veterans Association  
Catholic War Veterans of the USA Inc.  
Cohen Veterans Bioscience  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Disabled American Veterans (DAV)  
Digestive Disease National Coalition  
Dystonia Advocacy Network  
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation  
Endocrine Society  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology  
GBS|CIDP Foundation International  
International Foundation for Gastrointestinal Disorders  
Interstitial Cystitis Association  
LUNGeivity Foundation  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Alopecia Areata Foundation  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations  
NephCure Kidney International  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs (NOVA)  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Project Sleep  
Prostate Cancer Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation  
Scleroderma Foundation  
Sleep Research Society  
Society for Neuroscience  
Society of Academic Associations of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
Vietnam Veterans of America