



## FOVA Recommendations for FY 2023, Department of Veterans Affairs

### MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAM

| <u>FY 2022 Enacted<br/>(P.L. 117-103)</u>           | <u>FY 2023 President’s Budget<br/>Request</u>       | <u>FOVA FY 2023<br/>Recommendation</u>               |
|---|---|--|
| \$882 million                                       | \$946 million*                                      | <b>\$980 million</b>                                 |
| +\$67 million (8.2%) above<br>FY 2021 program level | +\$64 million (7.3%) above<br>FY 2022 program level | +\$98 million (11.1%) above<br>FY 2022 program level |

\*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.

**Organizations Endorsing the FOVA FY 2023 Recommendation (76 as of 5/3/22)**

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 Psychiatrists  
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  
LUNGeivity Foundation  
Lymphatic Education & Research Network  
National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics & Prosthetics  
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