



FOVA Executive Committee

Adrian Atizado

Disabled American Veterans
aatizado@dav.org

Gary Ewart

American Thoracic Society
gewart@thoracic.org

Emily Holubowich

AcademyHealth
eholubowich@dc-crd.com

Heather Kelly, Ph.D.

American Psychological Association
hkelly@apa.org

Matthew Shick

Association of American Medical Colleges
mshick@aamc.org

Rick Starrs

National Association of Veterans' Research and Education Foundations
rstars@navref.org

Jennifer Zeitzer

Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
jzeitzer@faseb.org

FOVA Recommendations for FY 2020

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
 MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH PROGRAM**

<u>FY 2019 Enacted</u> (P.L. 115-244)	<u>FY 2020 President's</u> <u>Budget Request</u>	<u>FOVA FY 2020</u> <u>Recommendation</u>
\$779 million (+\$57 million or +7.9% over FY 2018)	\$762 million (-\$17 million or -2.2% below FY 2019)	\$840 million (+\$61 million or +7.8% over FY 2019)

The FOVA coalition is thankful for Congress's recent investment in the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program, allowing the program to make up lost ground after nearly a decade of underfunding. FOVA's FY 2020 recommendation of \$840 million for VA research would allow for meaningful growth above inflation and continued investment in groundbreaking programs like the Million Veteran Program (MVP), while also supporting VA research on chronic and emerging needs of our nation's veterans. Sustained and steady VA research funding growth is important to help ensure the best return on investment in improving the health of veterans and all Americans.

MAJOR AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION

2012 Final Report of the VA Research Infrastructure Program	<u>FOVA FY 2020</u> <u>Recommendation</u>
\$774 million in deficiencies	\$225 million

For decades, the VA appropriations have failed to provide the resources VA needs to replace, maintain, or upgrade its aging research facilities. Consequently, many VA facilities have run out of adequate research space, or are unable to meet current standards. FOVA believes designating funds specifically for VA research facilities is the only way to break this stalemate. For capital infrastructure, renovations, and maintenance, FOVA recommends at least \$50 million for up to five major construction projects in VA research facilities and \$175 million in non-recurring maintenance and minor construction funding to address deficiencies identified in the congressionally-requested report on the status of VA research facilities available at: aamc.org/varpt. To help guide funding decisions, FOVA also encourages Congress to request information from VA regarding a recent update to the report.

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 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.