



FOVA Executive Committee

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FOVA Recommendations for FY 2019

MEDICAL AND PROSTHETIC RESEARCH (\$ in millions)

Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141)\$722
FOVA FY 2019 Recommendation.....\$823

	<u>FOVA FY 2019 Recommendation</u>	<u>President's FY 2019 Request</u>
<i>FY 2018 Baseline</i>	\$722	\$640
<i>BRDPI (2.7%)</i>	\$19	\$5
<i>MVP Biorepository</i>	\$8	\$8
<i>SECVA Priorities</i>	\$47	\$47
<i>VA/DOE Program</i>	\$27	\$27
Total	\$823	\$727

FOVA’s recommendation of \$823 million for VA research mirrors the priority areas outlined in the President’s budget request for FY 2019. This includes specific funding for: collaboration with the Department of Energy (DOE) to enhance VA research with the computing capabilities and biomedical imaging expertise at DOE; \$8 million to build a backup biorepository to store the invaluable biological samples collected for the Million Veteran Program (MVP); and funding for the Secretary’s research priority areas of mental health, pain management, MVP, and prosthetics. Prior to FY 2018, the VA research budget had been flat-funded since 2010 due to the increasing costs of biomedical inflation. While the President’s request incorporates some cost of biomedical inflation, FOVA’s recommendation applies the NIH’s biomedical research & development price index (BRDPI) to the entire VA research budget.

MAJOR AND MINOR CONSTRUCTION (\$ in millions)

FOVA FY 2019 Recommendation for Research Infrastructure.....\$225

For decades, the VA construction and maintenance 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 www.aamc.org/varpt. FOVA encourages Congress to request information from VA regarding the updated report to guide its funding decisions.

FOVA was founded 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.

