



NAVREF

National Association of Veterans' Research
and Education Foundations

Annual Report 2023



(202)-656-7701



info@navref.org



www.navref.org



@navref



1717 K ST NW Suite 900 Washington, DC 20006

Executive Summary

Interim CEO Hawk Tran



We are pleased to present the 2023 annual report for NAVREF, highlighting the significant growth and achievements of the organization over the past year. With a steadfast commitment to advancing VA research and supporting our nation's veterans, NAVREF has experienced notable expansion this past year. To-date the staff has grown from just two full time members to now a team consisting of a Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel, Development Advisor, Program Support Specialist, Project Administrator, and one volunteer. Our overall membership has also grown this past year representing a record \$313 million dollars added to research, reflecting the increased recognition of our collective importance to the VA research program. Many NPCs have also grown as multi-sites serving several VA Medical Centers in their geographic regions.

Furthermore, we were excited to announce the implementation of our new clinical trial management system aka ROGUE (Research Operations and Grants User Engine). ROGUE was designed by the NPCs solely for the NPCs. This affordable cloud-based system has streamlined our community's research operations,

enhanced and enabled more effective collaboration within user organizations. We're excited to see where this pilot year can take ROGUE and what outcomes may result from this enhanced way to track projects.

Additionally, NAVREF has placed a renewed focus on fostering and strengthening relationships with the VA Office of Research and Development (ORD). Through collaborative initiatives, we have deepened our partnership and expanded opportunities for impactful activities aimed at setting the landscape for the next era of NPC-VA relationships. This enhanced collaboration has not only reinforced our commitment to serving our veterans but has also opened doors to new funding opportunities and innovative endeavors.

In conclusion, NAVREF's growth, the successful implementation of ROGUE, and the strengthened relationships with VA ORD have paved the way for a remarkable year of progress and impact. We extend our gratitude to our dedicated members for their unwavering support and commitment to our shared mission. Together, we will continue to drive advancements in medical research and improve the lives of our nation's deserving veterans.

NAVREF Staff Summaries

General Counsel: Derwood Haskell



Derwood handled 103 cases for 37 NPCs and 54 cases for NAVREF. He also collaborated with VA OGC STAR to minimize CRADA review fees and worked with NPPO to eliminate the Financial Officer requirement in the revised 1200.17, while currently contributing to the development of a new Joint Personnel Agreement template with STAR.

Development Advisor: Priscilla West



Priscilla shared 14 trial opportunities, performed 20 tailored trial and funding searches for NPCs, and collaborated with the Industry Partner Consortium. This involved creating the NAVREF Guide for Trial Sponsors, aiding data analyst recruitment, and supporting diversity in trial enrollment.

Program Support Specialist: Peter Martin



Peter coordinates educational activities for NAVREF, producing 11 virtual events averaging 50 attendees since the last conference. He organized 2 in-person events with Florida International University's college of business and NPC experts. Additionally, Peter ensured successful collaboration and marketing of NAVREF's inaugural research week with VA and NIH doctors.

New Staff Member

Project Administrator: Elizabeth Stout



Elizabeth commenced her role as NAVREF's Project Administrator in early May, a specialized position overseeing unique projects aimed at enhancing the organization's mission. Her role includes spearheading graphic and visual design, coordinating leaders to NAVREF, and managing social media and in-person engagements.

NAVREF's Speaking Engagements: Past Year Highlights

- ★ November 8: Joined the Henry Jackson Foundation meeting to present the NPC Community
- ★ February 13: NAVREF attends AMSUS Meeting
- ★ March 23: ACHE VA Symposium
- ★ May 9: Research Week Kick-Off with Secretary McDonough
- ★ May 11: Moderated at the VA Biofabrication Community of Science Symposium
- ★ May 20: Collaboratively Hosted the ATS LPOP Meeting with ORD



NAVREF Dashboard Report

Membership

- 74/78 NPCs were members of NAVREF
- NAVREF 2022 Award Winners:
 - Barbara West Award**
Dr. Jeff Moore, CEO
Cleveland VA Medical Research and Education Foundation
 - Board of Directors Award**
Bob Forrester, Board Member
Boston VA Research Institute
 - Innovations and Best Practice Award**
Jake Lindheimer, Deputy ACOS-R
Madison, WI

Education

- Extended education assets via partnerships with ACRP and SCRS.
- 3 Workshops Produced: Executive Training, NPC Essentials, Grants Training
- 30th NAVREF Conference: best attended in our history with 200 attendees
- 8 Webinars Completed; 6 more scheduled through FY23

Administrative

- NPC represent \$313 million added to VA Research
- Total NAVREF assets as of FY22 end: \$1.3 million

Advocacy

- "NAVocacy Day" with Congressional Staff on the Hill to push awareness of NPC-VA research community
- Passage of the Omnibus (aka former VIPER Act) removing 209 as a barrier and paving the way to change how NPCs can use IPAs
- Collaboration with members of Congress on neurodegenerative disease and novel PTSD therapies for veterans
- Open lines of communication to stakeholder offices such as ORD, OGC STAR/Ethics, MVP, ORO, NPPO, TTP to take on projects impacting the NPCs: Overtime Opinions, JPA Guidelines, WOC/IPC (HRMACS)

Governance

- 3 New Board Members Added: Maggie Czarnogorski, Leslie Hughes, and Cindy Reutzel
- On the horizon of filling four more positions
- Standing committees can use volunteers:
 - Mentorship
 - 2024 Conference
 - Advocacy
 - Policy

Trials

- Enhancing IPC, Concierge Service for searches and study feasibility

NAVREF Board of Directors

Ronald W. Hakes, CPM, CSSBB
Executive Director
Chair

Peggy Bradley
Executive Director
Vice Chair

Rebecca Rosales, MBA, CRA
Chief Executive Officer
Secretary/Treasurer

Matthew Collier, MPA
Community Member,
US Army Veteran

Maggie Czarnogorski, MD, MPH
Community Member, ViiV
Healthcare

Leslie Hughes
Executive Director

Waqar Malik
Executive Director

Cindy Reutzel, MPA
Community Member,
Former NPC Executive

Gery Schulteis, PhD
ACOS Research
& Development

Katrina Washburn, PhD
Executive Director

Message from the Chair, Ronald W. Hakes

Hello from Cincinnati! I hope you're well and excited about our work in 2023. NAVREF is making incredible strides in transforming into the go-to source for Veterans Research and Education opportunities.

Last year, NAVREF celebrated its 30th anniversary at our largest attended Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Board Members and NPC Directors headed to the Capital to connect with Congressional staffers, discussing upcoming VA legislative opportunities.

We're thrilled about this year's Annual conference in Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. We hope you'll attend and enjoy the amazing scenery and landmarks throughout the city.

Thanks to our tireless work, positive VA legislation like the Omnibus (formerly Viper Act) and the PACT Act of 2022 (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins Act of 2022) were passed and signed by POTUS. We're

honored to have Burnpits360 founders, Mrs. Rosie Torres and Army Captain Le Roy Torres, as our Key Presenters at the Annual Conference Awards Dinner.

Despite COVID, our NPCs managed to produce \$313 million in new research studies. Our relationships with ORD and VA OGC are outstanding, resulting in better communications and NAVREF being considered in new ORD programmatic discussions.

I'd like to recognize Hawk Tran for stepping in as our Interim CEO, expanding the staff to address this year's initiatives and programs. Thanks to the staff and Hawk. I'd also like to acknowledge the incredible work of our NAVREF Search Committee in selecting a visionary and impactful CEO for our membership.

Let's continue to support each other and make 2023 the best year for you, your NPC, & NAVREF.



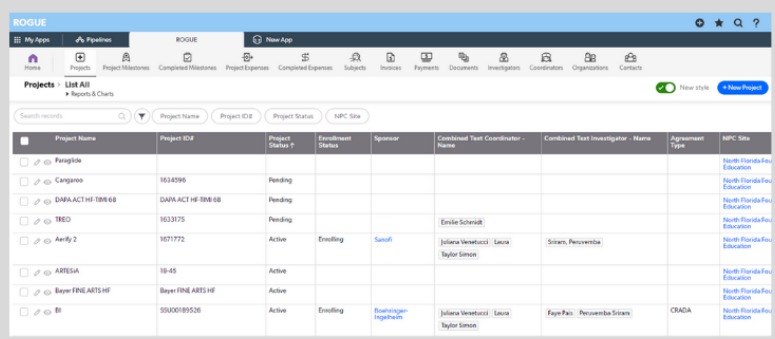
Catalyst for Growth

- ★ Clinical Trial and Grant Funding concierge service has increased on average to 4 requests per week
- ★ Maximizing the IPC and the products being developed
- ★ Launched ROGUE, a CTMS platform designed by NPCs for NPCs

Structure and Stability

- ★ Grew the NAVREF Staff which now consists of 3 Full-Time Staff, 2 Part-Time, and 1 volunteer
- ★ Enhanced relationships with VA through strengthening partnerships with ORD, NPPO, OGC STAR & Ethics, MVP, and Communications

Member Empowerment

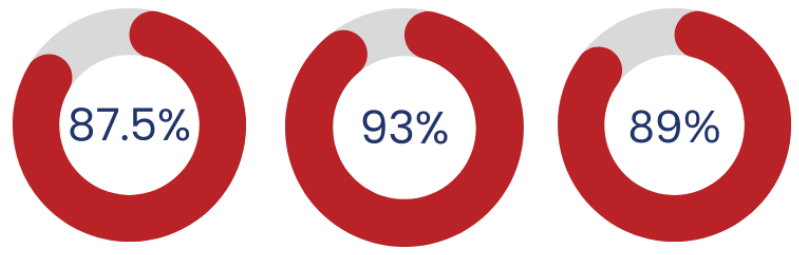



Project Name	Project ID#	Project Status	Enrollment Status	Sponsor	Combined Text Coordinator - Name	Combined Text Investigator - Name	Agreement Type	NPC Site
Canine	1034596	Pending						North-Florida-Fox Education
DAPA/ACT HF 188 68	DAPA/ACT HF 188 68	Pending						North-Florida-Fox Education
TREO	1033175	Pending			Erinle Schmidt			North-Florida-Fox Education
Amly2	1071772	Active	Enrolling	Sanofi	Juliana Veselacci - Luca Taylor Simon	Silvia Percebenza		North-Florida-Fox Education
AREISA	10-45	Active						North-Florida-Fox Education
Bayer FINE ARTS HF	Bayer FINE ARTS HF	Active						North-Florida-Fox Education
BI	0000185526	Active	Enrolling	BioCryst/Novartis	Juliana Veselacci - Luca Taylor Simon	Faye Pao - Percebenza Silvia	CRADA	North-Florida-Fox Education

- ★ 12 fully activated sites with ROGUE to date
- ★ Cost per site is \$5000/year and includes up to 10 users; \$35 per additional user per month compared to upwards of \$80 per year with other companies
- ★ NAVREF is the platform administrator that uses volunteer work via the ROGUE Work Group to further develop platform features and capabilities
- ★ All residual funds are reinvested into the platform to anticipate changes and future upgrades

2023 Member Survey Results

*Data taken from 31 respondents as of March 20, 2023



- ★ 87.5% agree they are satisfied with NAVREF
- ★ 93% finds our information valuable and trust we are looking out for NPC best interest
- ★ 89% satisfied with overall communication efforts
- ★ Programs and services are in a state of improvement as more resources are being redirected for their enhancement

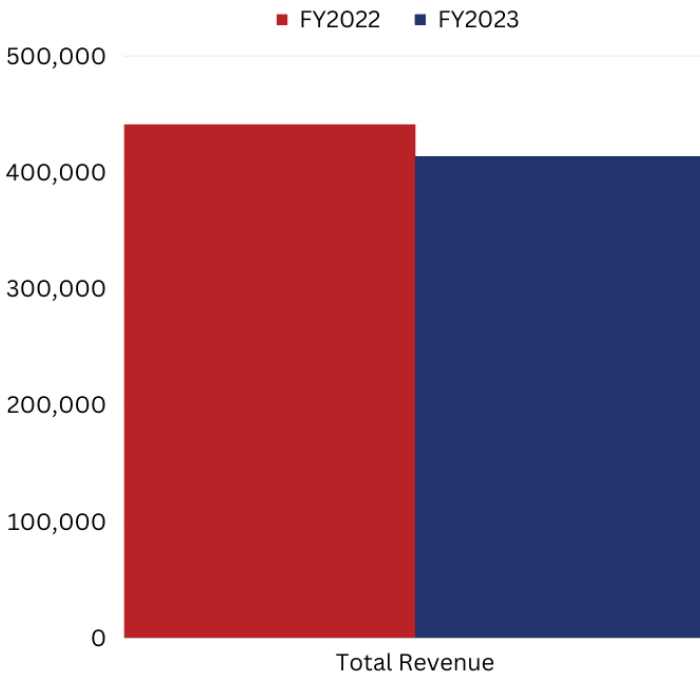
Remaining 2023 Agenda

May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA National Research Week Kick-Off Event • IPC Executive Meeting
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Renewals, • IPC Meeting • Annual Report to Membership • Q3 Board Meeting • Summer School Workshop Series • Quarterly Newsletter
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of Summer School Workshop
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPC Executive Meeting • Quarterly Newsletter
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31st NAVREF Conference • Q4 Board Meeting • NAVREF Staff Retreat • IPC Meeting • Membership Annual Meeting

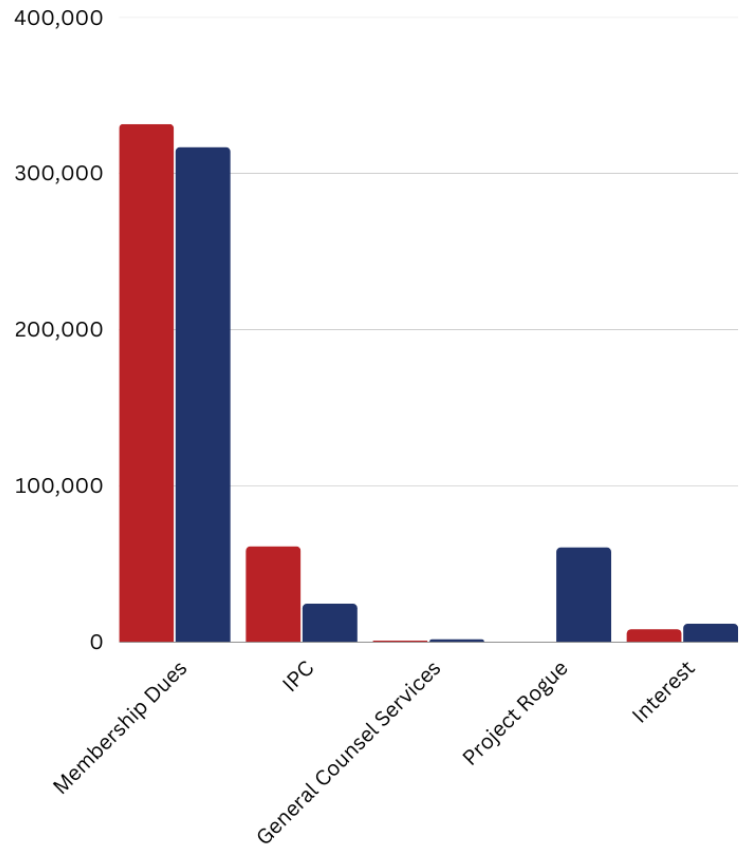
Financial Health of NAVREF

NAVREF has demonstrated a commendable level of financial stability throughout this past fiscal year (FY22). Despite the challenges faced by many organizations in the wake of the global pandemic and economic uncertainties, NAVREF maintained a solid financial footing as pictured in the chart to the right. Through sound financial management and strategic decision-making, NAVREF navigated the fiscal landscape, ensuring the continued programmatic content our membership expects and deserves. This stable financial health is a testament to NAVREF's leadership and their commitment to its NPC mission and the responsible stewardship of the organization's resources.

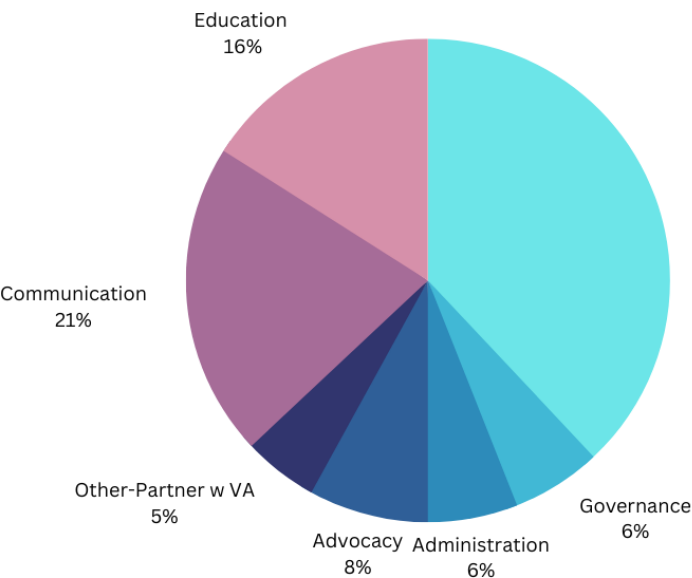
NAVREF Revenue Comparison



Breakdown of Revenue Comparison



Program Allocations FY2022



Program Allocations FY2023

