



NPI pushes for science R&D funding in Congress; celebrates one year anniversary of Cancer Moonshot Initiative launch

Friends,

I hope you are all having a very pleasant summer. I wanted to share some updates on the National Photonics Initiative (NPI) activities and progress in recent months.

- **Budgets for FY 2017 and FY 2018.** In the weeks following our record-breaking number of visits for Congressional Visits Day in April, we have continued to advocate heavily for our priorities in Congress. Throughout the House and Senate Appropriations Committee hearings, we have been aggressively pushing for sustained funding for multiple agencies, including: the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Science, National Institutes of Health (NIH) and others. After the President published his budget request for FY 2018, which called for cuts to various agencies that have critical photonics-based activities, the NPI voiced [opposition](#) to the proposal, while [praising](#) Congress' omnibus spending bill for the remainder of FY 2017, which preserved funding at FY 2016 levels.
- **Workforce Development Week and CTE.** Following the White House's Workforce Development Week, we refocused our efforts to [promote](#) a scientifically-literate workforce as well as reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education (CTE) Act. As the Senate begins consideration of the bill, the NPI continues to request that the bill include photonics technical training opportunities between community colleges and US industry. Many NPI volunteers have signed and sent letters to their senators conveying the importance of such language as the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) takes up the bill following House passage last month.
- **Quantum Science and Technology.** After several months of expert input and collaboration with our partners in academia and the private sector, the NPI has published our latest white paper, "[Call for a National Quantum Initiative](#)", thanks to the hard work of many NPI volunteers, including Chris Monroe and Mike Raymer. The paper was written at the request of the US House Committee on Science, Space and Technology, and will serve as a valuable resource for our continued engagement with policymakers at the federal level as they contemplate how to invest in quantum science and technology. The white paper calls for an investment of \$500 million of public funds over the next five years to establish four "Quantum Innovation Labs" across the country. As a next step, the

NPI hopes to work with key players in government, academia and industry to host a workshop to discuss the themes in the paper and determine how to advance quantum in the United States.

- **The Conference *Cancer Moonshot: One Year Later*.** Eva Sevick, a valuable member of the NPI Steering Committee and chair of our Biophotonics Task Force, [presented her technical poster](#) “National Photonics Initiative: Cancer Moonshot Task Force: Medical Imaging Used to Accelerate Progress” at *Cancer Moonshot: One Year Later*, a conference in Washington, DC, hosted by seven of the top cancer advocacy organizations to mark the one-year anniversary of the launch of the Cancer Moonshot Initiative. The event sought to bring the progress of the Cancer Moonshot Initiative over the last year front-and-center. On behalf of the NPI, Dr. Sevick attended the conference – alongside NPI-allied organizations such as Prevent Cancer Foundation and Lung Cancer Alliance – and presented her poster, which demonstrated the role of photonics-enabled imaging in cancer research, prevention and treatment. The NPI remains deeply committed to advancing the role of photonics in fighting cancer with our advocacy, industry and government partners.



- **District Visits.** In addition to our robust efforts on Capitol Hill to demonstrate the importance of R&D funding—especially for the government’s science-related agencies—the NPI is working hard to organize in-district visits with key members of Congress that have jurisdiction over agency funding and other NPI priorities in Congress. We have been working to invite these members and their staffs to optics and photonics laboratories, research facilities, companies and the like to make the case first-hand that funding scientific research and development in photonics is critical to American competitiveness, security and health. We encourage all of you to be active in your efforts to engage your members of Congress throughout the rest of the summer and especially during the August recess when they are back in their home states and districts. For information or


assistance in organizing in-district visits, please contact our excellent staff coordinators, Laura Kolton at lkolto@osa.org or Krisinda Plenkovich at krisindap@spie.org.

My term as chair of the NPI Steering Committee concludes at the end of July. However, my passion for the well being of our field and the potential impact that photonics can make will hopefully continue far into the future. We are blessed with a wonderful and collegial community, and I am deeply grateful to all of you for your friendship, support and unwavering dedication to the NPI and our goals. It has been a great privilege to be part of this unique collaboration made up of committed scientists and professional societies. As a community, we have made much progress, and I am quite optimistic that we will continue to flourish for the betterment of society.

I am delighted to announce that our distinguished friend Ed White will become the next chair of the NPI Steering Committee. Ed brings a wealth of experience and wisdom to the NPI, and I know that there are truly great things to come under his leadership. Please join me in congratulating him and in offering to help him and the NPI in any way we all can.

Thank you, again, for all that you do. I very much look forward to our continuing work together.

Warmly,



Alan Willner,

Chair, National Photonics Initiative Steering Committee

Contact Us

The NPI is interested in hearing from you. Are you interested in joining our efforts? Do you have questions? Need additional information? Please contact Laura Kolton at (202) 416 1499 or lkolto@osa.org, or Krisinda Plenkovich at (360) 685 5518 or krisindap@spie.org.

Please visit the NPI website for more information: www.lightourfuture.org.



www.LightOurFuture.org