

Sleep Research Society Advocacy Successes

On an annual basis, community stakeholders and volunteer advocates engage their Members of Congress to raise awareness of the value and importance of sleep research and to ask for support on key initiatives. This approach has been successful and led to meaningful progress.

- The sleep research portfolio at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has expanded from \$229 million in FY 2013 to \$327 million in FY 2017. This investment in sleep has reinvigorated the National Center on Sleep Disorders Research and led to a number of new projects as well as support for young investigators.
- In addition to advocating for budget increases that ultimately benefit the sleep, sleep disorders, and circadian portfolio at NIH, SRS also meets with the leadership of various Institutes and Centers to discuss specific projects and collaborative opportunities. These annual meetings have led to positive, cooperative relationships and a number of emerging initiatives.
- On an annual basis, SRS asks Congress to include “sleep disorders” on the list of conditions deemed eligible for study through the Department of Defense Peer-Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP). Unlike NIH, funding through the PRMRP is only available to a handful of conditions deemed eligible for study by Congress. Inclusion on the PRMRP list has resulted in over \$12 million of sleep research funding during recent years.
- SRS regularly meets with congressional offices and holds congressional staff briefings on key topics. These events ensure lawmakers understand the direction of the research portfolio and the importance of investing in research and public health activities. Recent efforts in this regard include continuing funding and support for the National Healthy Sleep Awareness Program at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- SRS collaborates with community stakeholders to ensure that a consensus message is delivered to Congress. These partnerships include working with individual patient organizations to collaboratively bolster research and public health efforts focused on specific sleep disorders, such as narcolepsy and restless legs syndrome.