

**Summary for projects submitted to the Appropriations Committee for the FY10
Appropriations Cycle**

The proposed recipient: SUNY College of Optometry and the Ross Eye Institute

Address of the recipient: 33 West 42nd Street, room 1542
New York, NY 10036

The amount of the request: \$2,000,000

Purpose of the project and why it is a good use of taxpayer funds: This proposal benefits DoD with a special emphasis on current military personnel and U.S. veterans having received either combat-related or general head injuries. No such comprehensive, vision-based clinical and research program exists in the United States. These two SUNY institutions, with complementary programs in optometry and ophthalmology, strongly believe they have the skills and the expertise to bring such an endeavor to New York State. In the current Iraq and Afghanistan wars, there have been at least twice as many individuals (nearly 15,000 head injuries incurred thus far) surviving serious head injuries relative to the Vietnam War and while those with serious head injuries have escaped with their lives, they will have residual effects of TBI, including those manifesting with the visual system.