



**CARIBBEAN COUNCIL FOR THE BLIND
&
THE FOUNDATION FOR EYE CARE IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**(In Association with)
THE DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
UWI, MONA CAMPUS
JAMAICA**

**“DELIVERING VISION 2020: THE RIGHT TO SIGHT
BY ADVANCING QUALITY RESEARCH INTO CONDITIONS WHICH
CAUSE PREVENTABLE BLINDNESS IN JAMAICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN**

An Offer

1. Background

- 1.1** Vision 2020: The Right to Sight - is a global initiative. The Programme is guided by a series of World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolutions, including: Reference - WHA Resolutions 56.26, 59.25 and 62.1
- 1.2** The Global Initiative was launched (in Geneva) in 1999 by a coalition involving: The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) www.iapb.org
- 1.3** CCB-Eye Care Caribbean coordinated the launch of the regional initiative in the Caribbean in July 2000, under the patronage of the then Minister of Health of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. The key Stakeholders in the Caribbean are:
- PAHO (www.paho.org)/WHO representing Ministries of Health and Governments of CARICOM;
 - International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) supporting work in Blindness Prevention and Sight Restoration across the Caribbean
 - CCB-Eye Care Caribbean - www.eyecarecaribbean.com (a joint effort of The Foundation for Eye Care in the Caribbean (Eye Care Caribbean) and the Caribbean Council for the Blind (CCB), representing the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness in the Region
- 1.4** By 2003, CCB-Eye Care Caribbean (in collaboration with PAHO/WHO and Sightsavers -(www.sightsavers.org)) launched the first Strategic Plan for Vision 2020: The Right to Sight for the Caribbean Region - www.eyecarecaribbean.com

The Plan prioritized the following conditions as critical if unavoidable visual impairment and blindness are to be eliminated across the Caribbean:

- Refractive Errors (and Low Vision);
- Cataract
- Diabetic Retinopathy;
- Glaucoma; and
- The group of conditions which cause visual impairment and blindness in children across the region (Childhood Blindness).

1.5 Since then, CCB-Eye Care Caribbean facilitated the implementation of V2020: The Right to Sight - in the Caribbean by:

**Providing technical and financial assistance re: development or implementation of National Prevention of Blindness Plans or Programmes in eight (8) countries. See the history of our work in the Caribbean at www.eyecarecaribbean.com*

1.6 In 2008, CCB-Eye Care Caribbean participated in a series of technical meetings at the Headquarters of PAHO-WHO in Washington, D.C. leading to the preparation of a set of Strategic Guidelines for the continuing development of Vision 2020 Activities across the Caribbean and the Americas.

1.7 In 2009, the Executive Committee and Directing Council of PAHO approved the Vision 2020 Strategic Guidelines (for the Prevention of Avoidable Blindness) for the Caribbean and the Americas.

1.8 In 2010 CCB-Eye Care Caribbean launched a revised Vision 2020 strategic Frame Work for the Caribbean covering the period 2010-2014.

1.9 Pursuant to the goals and objectives enunciated in both documents, CCB-Eye Care Caribbean is committed to working with the Department of Psychiatry and Community Health (UWI, Mona) to advance knowledge creation and knowledge recovery, in an effort to promote disease control and the prevention of avoidable blindness in Jamaica and across the wider Caribbean - to help the country and region become Vision 2020 compliant.

1.10 Apart from the Barbados Eye Study, (www.archopht.ama-assn.org) conducted more than a decade ago - no significant population or clinic-based studies have been undertaken in any of the conditions listed above.



2. THE GOAL OF THIS OFFER

- 2.1** Use ethical and scientifically sound research to help Jamaica and CARICOM meet their obligations to become Vision 2020 compliant (making quality Eye Health Services available to all) and consistent with the several Resolutions of the World Health Assembly, to advance Vision 2020: The Right to Sight, (www.vision2020.org) by reducing the prevalence of blindness and visual impairment among 'at risk' segments of the population.

3. AIM OF THIS OFFER

The establishment of a long-term partnership with The Department of Psychiatry and Community Health, to provide opportunities for Post-Graduate Students of Public Health to undertake rigorous and scientifically sound graduate studies in all or any of the five (5) main conditions which cause blindness in the Caribbean: or the effects of blindness on persons whose sight cannot be restored.

4. MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THIS OFFER

- 4.1** Make available up to one hundred thousand Jamaican Dollars (\$100,000) per Study for up to two (2) limited Research Grants in each Academic Year, plus one return (economy class) air ticket to one of the successful MPH Students, (to undertake training and or data collection activities) in the event a Study is being undertaken in the home-country of a Caribbean student who is not a resident of Jamaica.
- 4.2** The final amount of each Grant shall be based on a Research Budget prepared by the Student-Applicant, commented on by her/his Supervisor and recommended by the Coordinator of the MPH Programme, using an application format provided by the Caribbean Council for the Blind.

4.3 Make the Annual Research Grants to students recommended to CCB-Eye Care Caribbean, by the management of the Master of Public Health Programme at the UWI Mona Campus, Jamaica; providing the research question seeks to create or recover knowledge relevant to the diagnosis, treatment or management of all or any of the following conditions.

**Refractive Errors and/or Low Vision in humans of all age-groups;*

**Cataract*

**Glaucoma*

**Diabetic Retinopathy*

**Conditions which cause blindness or visual impairment in children;*

**Impact of incurable blindness on: children, adolescents, young adults, middle adulthood and in old age.*

4.4 The first two (2) Research Grants to be awarded in the Academic Year 2011-2012.

5. USE OF ALL STUDY MATERIAL AND THEIR RESULTS

5.1 By making or accepting this offer, CCB-Eye Care Caribbean; the University, and grant beneficiaries are conclusive that all studies (including: data collection instruments; Other material; raw and processed data; presentation, analysis and discussion of findings; and any other feature of a study funded under this arrangement) is a public good and may be published in ways including the following:

5.2 At the discretion of the University of the West Indies

5.3 At the discretion of the Researcher

5.4 At the discretion of the Caribbean Council for the Blind including

**For use in its web-site*

**To be used at the regular meetings of the Caribbean's V2020 Working Group which meets annually*

**Presentation at the Quadrennial Meeting of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).*

**By suitable peer-reviewed Journals*



6. HOW TO APPLY

Download a copy of this offer and discuss your options with The Coordinator of the MPH Programme.

7. In the event that CCB-Eye Care Caribbean is unable to make Research Grants in one or more subsequent years, the Organization will notify the Department of Psychiatry and Community Health (before the start of the upcoming academic year).

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“Preventing blindness and visual impairments; while restoring sight and creating opportunities for persons whose sight cannot be restored”.