### Eye on the cure 2022

# competition & Event guide and Application Form

### Timelines

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| **Competition Launch** | July 30, 2022 |
| **Application Due** | September 8, 2022 |
| **Finalists Announced** | September 30, 2022 (tentative) |
| **In-Person Filming & Public Broadcast** | October & November. Exact dates TBD |

### Description

* The goal of this competition is to raise funds for and awareness of vision research and inspire Canadians.
* Three vision researchers or teams will be chosen to compete head-to-head at a live event for awards to support their research. Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges, academy of jurors and voting public.
* The three finalists will be chosen based on their scientific proposal and their ability to communicate the importance of vision research to inspire Canadians. We are looking for expertise, but also someone who communicates the value of vision research with clarity and passion. **Think Dragon’s Den meets TedTalk!**

### Funding

* Award Funding
	+ $50,000 Judge’s Choice Award
	+ $30,000 People’s Choice Award
	+ $10,000 Inspiration Award(s)

Everyone goes home with at least $10,000! If a single finalist wins both the Judge’s Choice and the People’s Choice Awards the two remaining finalists will each receive a $10,000 Inspiration Award.

### Eligibility Criteria

This competition invites proposals from vision researchers who are studying blinding eye diseases. You can apply as an individual or as part of a team of two. Both members of the team must meet the eligibility criteria below. One member of the team must act as the principal applicant and will be the main point of contact.

Applicants must be living and working in Canada. To be eligible you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

* Hold an academic position at an accredited Canadian university, hospital or research institute
* Be a practicing ophthalmologist or optometrist with an active research program
* Be a PhD student or Postdoctoral fellow
* Be enrolled in a clinical doctoral degree (OD, MD etc.), residency or fellowship program

If the applicant(s) do not hold independent research positions and/or are not able to hold funds, they must identify a mentor who will supervise the project and be responsible for any funds awarded.

### Application Process

There are two stages to this competition. In the first stage, candidates are asked to submit an application (written and video components) by **September 8, 2022.** Three finalists will be selected to move on to the second stage where they will present their work in person during a recorded event in Toronto in late October/early November. More details about each stage are found below.

If you have any questions, please contact Larissa Moniz, Director, Research and Mission Programs at [research@fightingblindness.ca](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Clmoniz%5CDesktop%5Cresearch%40fightingblindness.ca).

**Stage 1: Apply to be a finalist (September 8, 2022)**

Please submit all application components in English though the FBC website: [fightingblindness.ca/research/for-researchers](https://www.fightingblindness.ca/research/for-researchers/).

All written components (Section 1-3) should be submitted as a single PDF document. **We reserve the right to reject applications and videos that exceed the specified page, word or time limits.**

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| **Section** | **Format** | **Section Description** |
| 1 | Application Form | **Eye on the Cure Application Form:** Found below. Electronic signatures accepted. Please delete Competition Guide instructions and just submit the Application form with signatures. |
| 2 | Free text, 500 words | **Research Proposal Summary**: Provide a brief description of the proposed research including significance, aims and research methods. |
| 3 | Free text, 3 pages maximum each | **CV**: Maximum 3-page CV that showcases key accomplishments. Each member of the team should submit a CV.  |
| 4 | Video, 2 minutes maximum | **Video:** Please introduce yourself and provide answers to the following: 1. Tell us about yourself e.g. where do you live, what do you like to do with your free time?
2. What drew you to a career in vision research?
3. Tell us (briefly) about your research project and how it will benefit the vision loss community

Please aim your answers at a lay audience. Think about how you would talk about your research to a family member or friend who doesn’t have a science background. **Preferred video format:** MP4 file format, filmed HORIZONTALLY. Videos made with your phone are acceptable.  |

Review Criteria

The goal of this competition is to raise funds for and awareness of vision research and inspire Canadians. The three finalists will be chosen based on several factors, including the caliber of the candidate(s) and research project and the applicant’s effectiveness as an ambassador for vision research but may also consider the disease and research area as well as regional and other representation in order to create an event that is diverse and engaging.

**Stage 2: Three finalists move on to the Eye on the Cure Event**

The Eye on the Cure event has a few components. The first component (October 30th, tentatively) will be a live filmed event where you will present your project to a panel of judges. If safe, we are asking candidates to travel to Toronto (expenses paid) to participate in this event. The second component is a cocktail reception where finalists are asked to attend virtually to answer questions from academy jurors. The final component is the online show where Footage from the filmed event and other pre-taped content will be combined into an online show where ticket holders get to vote on the People’s Choice Award.

Here’s what’s expected of the three finalists:

**Filmed Interview** (September 2022): FBC will engage a professional film crew in your area to film an interview with you about your project and interest in vision research. The final, edited 3-minute interview will be shown as part of the live-filmed event and online broadcast. Prior to your interview, FBC will provide you with the questions and with a media coach (via Zoom call), should you wish them to assist you with your on-camera presence.

**In-person presentation in Toronto** (October 30, date is tentative): If safe, FBC will arrange for the three finalists to travel to Toronto. Finalists coming from out of town should plan on arriving the day before (e.g. October 29th) and departing the day after (e.g. October 31) the presentation. Candidates should prepare a 5-minute presentation with accompanying PowerPoint slides (must be submitted to FBC by October 25th) and be comfortable answering questions from the judges (consisting of on-air personalities and Vision Industry leaders). The presentation should be engaging and in language that is clear to a non-scientific group. Costs, including travel and accommodation will be covered by FBC.

**Virtual attendance at a cocktail reception** (November, exact date TBD)**:** Academy members and sponsors will get an opportunity to view the semi-edited footage of the broadcast and ask questions to the finalists.

**Event promotion** is highly encouraged! We want your help to raise awareness of the competition and to promote ticket purchases for the online broadcast (November 18, tentatively). Remember anyone you convince to buy a ticket is eligible to vote for you for the People’s Choice Award! Tickets will be available on the event website [fightingblindness.ca/eyeonthecure](http://www.FBCEyeonthecure.ca) closer to the event date.

# 2022 EYE ON THE CURE Research Grant Competition

# **Application Form**

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| Name  |
| Phone  | Email  |
| Mailing Address  |
| Institution where funds will be administered |
| Department, program and/or sub-speciality |
| Position (Assistant professor, PhD student, resident etc.) |

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| Project Title   |
| Impact statement (200 word maximum): How will your proposed project impact Fighting Blindness Canada’s mission to accelerate the development and availability of new treatments for blinding eye diseases?  |

## Signatures

Note: If you hold an independent research position at an accredited Canadian university, hospital or research institute you do not need to provide a supervisor’s name/signature. All other applicants must provide the name of an individual who holds an independent research position and will provide supervision and mentorship for their research project.

**Applicant Name:**

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*Signature Date*

**Supervisor’s Name:**

**Position: Institution**

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*Signature of Supervisor Date*

**Authorized Institutional Representative Name:**

**Authorized Institutional Representative Title:**

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*Signature of Authorized Institutional Representative Date*