### Eye on the cure 2023

# competition & Event guide and Application Form

### Timelines

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| --- | --- |
| **Competition Launch** | August 2023 |
| **Application Due** | September 7, 2023, 5 p.m. EST |
| **Finalists Announced** | September 15, 2023 (tentative) |
| **In-Person Filming & Public Broadcast** | October & November. Exact dates TBD |

### Description

* This competition will inspire Canadians coast to coast and raise funds and awareness for vision research.
* Up to 5 early career vision researchers or teams will be selected as finalists to compete head-to-head for awards to support their research.
  + We are aiming to select a finalist from each of 5 geographical regions.
  + Finalists will compete for top prizes of $25,000 and $15,000, with all finalists receiving at least $10,000 in funding towards their research. Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges, academy of jurors and the voting public.
* We are looking for applicants who are passionate, enthusiastic and can clearly communicate the value of vision research. **Think Dragon’s Den meets TedTalk!**
* The competition is open to all early career vision researchers whose research impacts blinding eye diseases. Applications relevant to inherited retinal diseases or age-related macular degeneration are strongly encouraged.

### Funding

* Award Funding
  + $25,000 Academy Choice Award
  + $15,000 People’s Choice Award
  + $10,000 Inspiration Award(s).

A single finalist may win both of the top two awards. All finalists who do not win one of the top two awards, will receive a $10,000 Inspiration award.

### Eligibility Criteria

This year the competition is geared to early career vision researchers and trainees who are studying blinding eye diseases. Applications that are relevant to inherited retinal diseases or age-related macular degeneration are strongly encouraged. 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. You are:

* A PhD student or Postdoctoral fellow or/
* Enrolled in a clinical doctoral degree (OD, MD etc.), residency or fellowship program or/
* An early-stage investigator, having held an academic position for less than 3 years

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

### Review Criteria

The goal of this competition is to raise funds for and awareness of vision research and inspire Canadians. This year, we are looking for finalists to represent each of the five regions listed below. If there is no suitable candidate from a specific region, FBC may choose to select less than 5 finalists or select two representatives from a single region.

In addition to regional representation, finalists will be chosen based on several factors, including but not limited to their effectiveness as an ambassador for vision research and their disease/research area to create an event that is diverse and engaging.

**Regions:**

* Western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon and Northwest Territories)
* Central Canada (Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nunavut)
* Ontario
* Quebec
* Eastern Canada (New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island)

If your team is composed of individuals who work in different regions you are still encouraged to apply and FBC will evaluate your application for both eligible regions.

### Application Process

There are multiple stages to this competition. In the first stage, candidates are asked to submit an application (written and video components) by **September 7, 2023, 5pm EST.** Up to five 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 mid-October (October 15, tentative) as well as participating in a Zoom call in front of our academy of judges (November 7, tentative). 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:\Users\lmoniz\Desktop\research@fightingblindness.ca).

**Stage 1: Apply to be a finalist (September 7, 2023)**

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Description automatically generated with low confidenceStage 1:

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

We aim to announce finalists by September 15, 2023 (tentative). **Once notified you will be asked to confirm you participation in the competition and attendance at in-person events within 48h.**

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 before submitting application. |
| 2 | Free text, 3 pages maximum each | **CV**: Maximum 3-page CV that showcases key accomplishments. Each member of the team should submit a CV. |
| 3 | Video, 2.5 minutes maximum | **Video:** Your video should provide answers to the questions below. We encourage you to read and follow the video filming tips (proved at end of this document) before filming. Your answers should be aimed 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.  Please note that video content from all applicants may be used as promotional material or in the final broadcast.   1. Tell us about yourself e.g. where do you live, what do you like to do with your free time? Approximately 30s. 2. What inspired you to pursue a career in vision research? What is the legacy you want to leave behind? What excites you about vision research and why are you pursuing a career in it? Approximately 1 min. 3. Tell us about the research project you are currently pursuing and how it is helping to build your legacy. Approximately 1min. |

**Stage 2: Up to five finalists/teams move on to the Eye on the Cure Event**

The Eye on the Cure event has a few components. The first component (October 15th, tentatively) will be a live filmed event where you will present your project to a panel of judges. Candidates should be prepared to travel to Toronto (travel and accommodation expenses will be paid by FBC and a per diem provided) to participate in this event. The second component is a donor reception which finalists will attend virtually to answer to questions from an academy of voters. The judges and academy votes will be combined to determine the first prize winner ($25,000). The final component is the online show. Footage from the filmed event and other pre-taped content will be combined into an online show which is free to view. Members of the community can donate in order to vote on the People’s Choice Award ($15,000).

Here’s what’s expected of the finalists:

**In-person presentation in Toronto** (October 15, date is tentative): FBC will arrange for the finalists to travel to Toronto. Finalists coming from out of town should plan on arriving the day before (e.g. October 14th) and ideally depart the day after (e.g. October 16th) the presentation. Candidates may be asked to prepare a presentation and should be comfortable answering questions from the judges (consisting of on-air personalities and Vision Industry leaders. More details will be provided to selected finalists.

**Virtual attendance at a donor/academy reception** (November 7, date is tentative)**:** Academy members, FBC donors and sponsors will get an opportunity to view the semi-edited footage of the broadcast and ask questions to the finalists.

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Description automatically generated with low confidence**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 16, date is tentative). 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.

# 2023 EYE ON THE CURE Research Grant Competition

# **Application Form**

**Lead Applicant**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | |
| Phone | Email |
|  | |
| Geographical Region (pick one of: Western Canada, Central Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Eastern Canada), and city | |
| Institution where funds will be administered | |
| Department, program and/or sub-speciality | |
| Position (PhD student, resident etc.) | |

**Co-Applicant (if applicable)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | |
| Phone | Email |
|  | |
| Geographical Region (pick one of: Western Canada, Central Canada, Ontario, Quebec, Eastern Canada), and city | |
| Institution where funds will be administered | |
| Department, program and/or sub-speciality | |
| Position (PhD student, resident etc.) | |

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| --- |
| **Project Title** |
| **Project Description** (250 word maximum): Provide a brief description of your proposed project, aims and research methods. |
| **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? This should be written in lay language. |

## 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.

**Lead Applicant Name:**

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*Signature Date*

**Co-Applicant Name (if applicable):**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Signature Date*

**Supervisor’s Name** (must be provided if applicant(s) are trainees and unable to hold funds independently)**:**

**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*

**TIPS FOR RECORDING YOURSELF ON VIDEO**

**SOME TOP TIPS:**

* It is ideal if you can position yourself in front of natural light, with your face to the light. A window or sliding door work wonders in enhancing the lighting. Try not to have natural light behind you and avoid overhead lights.
* If you are using a cell phone, shoot horizontally.
* When shooting indoors, consider using a [ring light](https://www.amazon.com/s?k=ring+light+for+laptop&crid=1ZSRTZOTAIF7Q&sprefix=ring+light%2Caps%2C203&ref=nb_sb_ss_i_3_10) that clips to your computer/phone to help light your face.
* Take your time and speak clearly and louder than normal.
* If necessary, consider using a teleprompter app in order to minimize looking up and down from your screen.  A few to consider include: [Video Teleprompter Lite](https://apps.apple.com/us/app/video-teleprompter-lite/id1031079244), [PromptDog](https://promptdog.com/), [Promptsmart](https://promptsmart.com/).

**CHOOSING YOUR IDEAL SHOOTING LOCATION**

* Find a location that is well-lit with natural sunlight or plenty of indoor lighting.
* Choose a quiet location with little background noise (street sounds, music, other people).
* Avoid spaces with lots of echo.
* Turn off air conditioners and heaters to avoid fan noise.
* Provide a seat for yourself that is stationary and quiet (no chairs with wheels/swivels, overstuffed cushions, or squeaky screws).

**SETTING UP YOUR PHONE / CAMERA**

* Set your laptop, phone, or camera on a tripod or steady surface (please do not hold your camera while shooting to avoid shaky footage).
* Shoot horizontally (use landscape mode and avoid portrait mode).
* Position camera at eye level (if you can, avoid angles where the camera lens is looking up or down on you).
* Choose a non-distracting background (avoid windows, showing other people, posters/signs that can be read, unsightly items, open doors, etc.).
* Preferred video format: MP4 file

**CAMERA PRESENCE**

* Look at the camera at all times.
* Keep your hand movements to a minimum.
* Stand/sit up straight.
* Keep your hands to your side or gently folded in front of you (no crossed arms).
* Keep your shoulders relaxed.
* Smile, especially at the beginning and the end of each response.

**ANSWERING QUESTIONS**

* When answering question prompts, please rephrase the question at the beginning of your response instead of jumping right into your answer (e.g., “The inspiration for my research is…” vs. simply “My mother who has AMD...”)
* Start and end your answers with a second of silence, looking straight into the camera.
* Start your answer again if a noise interrupts your answer, such as a police siren or dog barking.

**CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES TO AVOID**

* Clothing with colors that blend in with your background.
* Patterns (stripes, plaids, polka dots).
* Shiny fabrics or jewelry.
* Visible labels, logos, text, images.
* Wrinkled clothes.
* All white or all black clothing.
* Noisy accessories that could interfere with your audio.

**A FEW OTHER HELPFUL HINTS**

* If you can, ask a friend/family member to assist you while you record.
* Do a short recording test to make sure you can see and hear yourself clearly.
* Have water handy for clearing your throat.
* A bite from an apple can help take care of a dry mouth!