

## XOVA Q & A

### About the XOVA program

#### What is the XOVA program?

The eXcellence in Ophthalmology Vision Award (XOVA) is an award program that is intended for eye care specialists, including those in training, and for specialist nurses working in eye care, who have devised non-profit educational or innovative initiatives that are expected to have significant impact on unmet needs in the field of eye care. Please note, the XOVA is not intended to provide funding for basic research or clinical trials.

#### What is meant by an 'educational or innovative initiative'?

XOVA aims to support initiatives that help to deliver sustainable improved eye care. A typical example of an education initiative would be one that improves local training and education for doctors in developing countries, instead of them having to rely on visiting eye care specialists from developed countries who can only provide skills and knowledge for the duration of their visit. It is also important that such initiatives have a sustainable impact.

In this type of setting, it is important that any clinician education should be provided in a way that facilitates local learning in the clinicians' own environment, using normal local resources. Additionally, in order to ensure that the impact is sustained, the judges would expect to see a plan for long-term viability and impact in the benefiting country as part of the project.

A typical example of an innovative initiative is one that uses a novel approach to monitoring visual acuity changes (e.g. through a convenient electronic medium like the internet). Another example would be an initiative that provides local physicians and pharmacists in developing countries with mobile telephones that enable them to implement a simple SMS-based stock ordering system. This type of initiative could be applied to any medicines in any country.

#### Who is sponsoring the XOVA?

XOVA is an award program sponsored by Novartis Pharma and Alcon.

#### How much is the XOVA worth?

Applicants may apply for grants of up to €50,000 in value.

#### Who judges the XOVA?

All applications are screened by the XOVA coordinating team to ensure they meet the criteria outlined above and on the application form. Applications that meet these criteria may be short-listed for consideration by the XOVA committee.

The XOVA committee comprises 34 international experts in eye care who are located in countries around the world. They consider all short-listed applications at a committee meeting following the close of the award each year. Final decisions relating to the successful applicant of the XOVA will be made by the XOVA committee.

## About applying for the XOVA

### Who should apply for the XOVA?

XOVA applications from ophthalmologists, optometrists and allied eye healthcare professionals, including those in training, will all be considered, providing the application has been endorsed by an academic institution or organization.

### Do entries have to be associated with an academic institution?

No. Applications must be made on behalf of an academic institution or organization that endorses the application. An academic institution such as a university would be one example of a suitable endorsing institution, but other types of organization also qualify.

This is required because Novartis Pharma and Alcon will need to execute a sponsorship agreement with the endorsing academic institution or organization before any funding can be released. It is not possible to execute the agreement with any individual person.

### What is meant by 'organization'?

This definition covers worldwide not-for-profit organizations, hospitals and clinics, and does not have to be associated with an academic institution such as a university.

### Will XOVA provide funding for a laboratory-based research project?

No, the XOVA is not intended for funding research or clinical trials.

### Are unsuccessful applicants permitted to reapply for a XOVA the following year?

Yes. Due to the high number of applications received, it is not possible to fund every worthy project that applies for a XOVA grant. Novartis Pharma and Alcon actively encourage reapplying for XOVA as there have been instances of cases that were unsuccessful first time around reapplying and being chosen in subsequent years.