

## Winning Organizations 2014

*Uday R. Gajiwala: Door-to-door screening for glaucoma, diabetes and hypertension, incorporated into a pre-existing community-based rehabilitation program in Umarpada and Mangrol Taluka, Surat district, Gujarat, India*

### Divyajyoti Trust

The Divyajyoti Trust is a registered charitable trust, recently established by a number of individuals who, for the past two decades, have been involved with philanthropic activities. The Trust is dedicated to improving the quality of life of people in the rural, tribal area of Mandyi Taluka, in the Surat district of Gujarat, India. The communities in these villages are economically disadvantaged, have low literacy rates and limited access to healthcare facilities. In alignment with the Vision 2020 program (a joint WHO and International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness initiative), the current aim of the Trust's work is to reduce, and eventually eliminate, avoidable blindness.

Some of the past successes of the Trust include setting up an eye hospital in the region and providing training to eye care staff of all levels. Future plans include raising awareness of eye diseases and their treatment, and establishing a telemedicine facility.

*Hyong Kwon Kang: Development of operating theater sterilization and aseptic pathway at Wachet Hospital*

**Myanmar Eye Care Project in partnership with the RANZCO Eye Foundation**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO) Eye Foundation, founded in 2002, is dedicated to restoring sight and preventing vision loss throughout Australasia. Its initiatives include funding research into major causes of blindness, providing sustainable eye-care programs in disadvantaged communities, and to increase public knowledge of eye health.

The RANZCO Eye Foundation is working in partnership with the Myanmar Eye Care Project to reduce the prevalence of preventable and avoidable blindness in the rural areas of Myanmar. They hope to achieve this by developing a high-quality, locally staffed, self-sustaining and efficient eye-care health system by 2020. As part of this collaboration, a team of Australian eye-care specialists and support staff are providing treatment for eye diseases in Myanmar, and helping to train local personnel to enable them to continue the work independently. By opening new eye-care centers and providing and maintaining essential equipment, the project is key to helping to improve facilities in the region.

*Demissie Tadesse: Training mid-level ophthalmic personnel to scale-up eye-care service provision in Ethiopia*

## Sight for Souls

Sight for Souls is a not-for-profit, evangelist organization based in the USA, which is – in partnership with Ethiopian ophthalmologists – working to establish the Discovery Eye Institute in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The institute will be a self-sustaining clinic, training and research center that will provide both eye care and ophthalmologist training. Furthermore, in partnership with local churches and missionaries, the organization will provide traveling clinics to reach communities in remote areas of the country. The project is aiming to open the Institute in 2015.

*Clare Inkster: Ensuring equity and quality standards for eye-care services in Nigeria through the Lagos–Bolton/North West Deanery VISION 2020 LINK*

**VISION 2020 LINK Program**

The Vision 2020 LINK Program at the International Centre for Eye Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, is part of the Vision 2020 program – a joint WHO and International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness initiative. The LINK Program matches the requirements of overseas institutions (mainly in Africa) with a UK training eye unit, in order to develop training programs for eye-care professionals in low-income countries. There are currently 20 VISION 2020 links between the UK and Africa. This XOVA-winning project has a VISION 2020 link between the Guinness Eye Centre at Lagos University Teaching Hospital and Bolton NHS Foundation Trust.

*Elizabeth Kishiki: Provision of comprehensive eye-care services for children in eastern Uganda*

## Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology

With support from a range of private and public organizations, the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) was established in 2001. The aim of the center is to strengthen African health systems and partnerships in order to achieve the goals of the Vision 2020 program (a joint WHO and International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness initiative). Their work focusses on three areas:

- Planning and change implementation – working with existing eye departments and national/regional programs to develop evidence-based informed, practical plans and to improve organizational and financial stability
- Capacity building – providing and developing training programs for health care professionals, researchers and management personnel within the field of eye care
- Research – investigating cost-effective ways to improve the accessibility, uptake and quality of eye health care