

XOVA, empowering eye care specialists to transform communities since 2010 ^[1]

Novartis is committed to bringing more of our medicines to more people, no matter where they are.

In ophthalmology, one way we bring this commitment to life is through the eXcellence in Ophthalmology Vision Awards (XOVA) program. XOVA aims to help reduce the burden of blindness around the world by providing funding for non-profit initiatives that strive to make improvements within the field of eye care.



More than 1 million visually impaired patients have received treatment thanks to a XOVA grant in the past 4 years alone. 44 projects have been funded so far, benefitting 27 countries

or regions.

Novartis is committed to raising the standards for eye care worldwide through XOVA, and partnering with industry, healthcare professionals and civil society to end preventable blindness.



**≥2.2
billion**

**people worldwide are estimated to
have visual impairment¹**



**≥1
billion**

**people are living with vision
impairment that could have been
prevented or is yet to be
addressed¹**

I am delighted to join the XOVA Program. I am privileged to be a judge in an initiative to reach the unreached and make a difference in the global effort to provide affordable eye health in a sustainable manner.

Dr Aaron Thembinkosi Magava, Regional Chair, Africa, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness; XOVA judge

XOVA projects cover a range of local eye care needs:

- Improving care in rural communities
- Screening and assessing populations
- Raising awareness of eye diseases
- Providing training and education
- Building or expanding eye care centers
- Installing or improving technology

Meet a visionary with a vision of inclusive eye care

[Video of Saving sight in Rwanda](#)

XOVA grant recipient Dr. Theophile Tuyisabe is one of only 18 ophthalmologists in Rwanda. We spoke with him about what it's like to practice eye care in a country where there are so many patients in need.

[Read More](#) ^[2]

Realize your vision. Save theirs. [Apply for an eXcellence in Vision Ophthalmology Awards \(XOVA\) grant](#) ^[3].

[Contact us](#) ^[4] for more information, and read on to learn more about the award program.

Our sight is one of the senses we value the most. However, despite huge improvements in healthcare, there are still 2.2 billion blind or visually impaired people worldwide. Through programs such as XOVA, Novartis is committed to working together with you to improve eye care around the world. Join us: realize your vision to save theirs.

Lykke Hinsch Gylvin, Medical Head, Ophthalmology, Novartis

Frequently asked questions

Who can apply?

Patient advocacy groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), ophthalmologists, optometrists, specialist eye care nurses and allied eye healthcare professionals (including those in training) can all apply, provided the application is made on behalf of an academic institution or organization. Project outcomes should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound.

Please note, XOVA is not intended to provide funding for basic research or clinical trials and projects that have commenced prior to application submission will not be considered.

Who sponsors XOVA?

XOVA is an award program sponsored by Novartis Pharma AG.

Who judges XOVA?

An external panel of expert representatives from numerous international eye health institutions are responsible for judging XOVA applications. Members of the XOVA committee may not apply for the XOVA award.

How do I apply for XOVA?

Applications must be made on behalf of an academic institution or organization that endorses the application. An academic institution, such as a university, is one example of a suitable endorsing institution, but other types of organizations also qualify.

Related content

- [Expanding access to healthcare](#) ^[5]
- [Access principles](#) ^[6]
- [Meeting patient's eye care needs in remote communities](#) ^[7]
- [Access to healthcare stories](#) ^[8]

Footnotes:

References:

1. WHO. Blindness and vision impairment. Accessed September 18, 2020. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs282/en/> ^[9]
2. IAPB. Vision Atlas. Accessed September 18, 2020. <http://atlas.iapb.org/global-burden-vision-impairment/> ^[10]

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Links

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