



## Restore Vision 20/20 Initiative 2018 Call for Applications

It is estimated that 1 in 9 Canadians will develop irreversible vision loss by the age of 65. There are no treatments for many of these blinding eye diseases. The Restore Vision 20/20 Initiative aims to change this. In 2017, The Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) announced the **Restore Vision 20/20 Initiative**, which is a new \$2.5 million funding commitment to drive the development of sight-restoring therapies for people living with late-stage retinal degeneration.

Over the past decades, vision research has made great strides forward. Today, more than 250 causative genetic mutations have been linked to retinal degeneration, and advances in stem cell biology and gene editing have opened the door to regenerative medicine approaches to restoring vision. This knowledge presents opportunities to develop an effective therapeutic approach to restore sight.

**The goal of Restore Vision 20/20 is to support world-class research teams with the capacity to initiate clinical trials to test innovative treatments for late-stage retinal degeneration (specifically, late-stage retinitis pigmentosa, but applicants that impact more than RP are welcome). To achieve this goal, Restore Vision 20/20 will fund essential pre-clinical research, facilitate strategic international collaborations and provide financial, technical, administrative, and commercialization support.**

The Restore Vision 20/20 grant competition is based on a 24-month funding period (October 1, 2018 to October 1, 2020), with possible renewal funding for an additional 2 years. The grant application requires a 4-year strategic plan, including a high-level, 4-year budget. There is no guarantee of full funding for the four years. Continued funding will be contingent on the team's yearly progress and ability to successfully meet key milestones.

The Restore Vision 20/20 initiative will support teams who are developing a therapeutic approach with the potential to restore sight to people living with late-stage retinal degeneration. The therapeutic approach should not be gene-specific and must be directly relevant to people living with late-stage retinitis pigmentosa. Approaches with a broad disease relevance will also be considered.

**All proposed projects must be clearly aimed at developing therapies in the short-term and articulate a path to the clinic.**

Institutional partnerships are strongly encouraged but are not required. Please contact the FFB's Director of Research and Education ([msunderland@ffb.ca](mailto:msunderland@ffb.ca)) if you would like to discuss the criteria.

Commercialization is an important consideration on the path to the clinic. Applicants must demonstrate that the following areas will be addressed:

- Patent and intellectual property
- Technology and manufacturing scale-up
- Regulatory approval (clinical trial application to Health Canada)
- Clinical trials expertise (trial design and protocol, Research Ethics Board (REB), Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB), screening and recruitment, data management, monitoring, reporting, site management, etc.)



- Industry receptors and/or out-licensing or company creation
- Development of a reasonable reimbursement model
- Engagement of the clinical community for future adoption of technology or therapy

### Eligibility and Requirements

- International co-PIs and collaborators are welcomed
- Principle investigators may apply for only one grant per competition

### Application and Review Schedule

Deadlines	Activity
May 7, 2018	Deadline to submit <b>Letter of Intent</b> through the ffb.ca portal
May 16, 2018	Applicants informed of eligibility to submit full proposal
July 3, 2018	Deadline to submit <b>Full Proposal</b> through the ffb.ca portal
September 5, 2018	Evaluation of grants by FFB's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB)