

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CBM and Sightsavers awarded António Champalimaud Vision Award



Photo courtesy: The Champalimaud Foundation

The 2017 António Champalimaud Vision Award has been jointly given to Sightsavers, a United Kingdom-based welfare institution and CBM, an international Christian development organization. Both these organisations have a long and distinguished history of supporting blindness prevention, alleviation and rehabilitation programmes in developing countries like Nepal, Mozambique, Uganda, Ethiopia and Bangladesh.

The €1,000,000 António Champalimaud Vision Award is directed to groups actively involved in fighting blindness and visual impairment in the field, and is based on the candidate's accomplishments.

There are 39 million blind people in the world and 80% of all blindness can be prevented or cured. Sightsavers and CBM have spent decades fighting blindness in dozens of countries across the globe. Both are recognised as pioneers in the field and were the creators of a model to combat vision disorders based around 3 pillars: prevention, cure and support. The awarded organisations have exported this model to many of the forgotten communities worldwide, and they have worked with local groups to create

effective and sustainable vision programmes.

In addition to their frontline activities in blindness prevention and cure, both Sightsavers and CBM actively seek to empower individuals permanently disabled by blindness to play an active role in society.

IACLE presents Lifetime Achievement Award at 2017 Congress

The International Association of Contact Lens Educators (IACLE) presented the IACLE Award for Lifetime Achievement in Contact Lens Education to Australian educator and researcher Professor Deborah Sweeney at their Congress held in Hyderabad, India on 9-10 September. (see report in this issue @ 74)

Professor Sweeney received her award from IACLE President Dr Shehzad Naroo, following a tribute from Professor Desmond Fonn, recipient of the first-ever IACLE Award for Lifetime Achievement in Contact Lens Education, who was among the IACLE Congress speakers.

She acknowledged the contribution of IACLE's founders to the association, and the long-term support of the contact lens industry that recognised education was 'a win for the patient, the practitioner and the market'. 'IACLE is built on the enthusiasm and collaborative spirit of its members,' she said. 'It's been a personal pleasure – as well as a professional one – to be involved. IACLE will continue to make a great mark on contact lens education.'

Dr Naroo commented: 'Debbie took over from the late Brien Holden, who was IACLE President from 1991-2000. Des Fonn was Vice President for 15 years and served during both former presidencies. It was this remarkable trinity that moulded IACLE to its current form. They created a global organisation that has reached all corners of the world, currently has more than 800 members, and has helped raise the standard of contact lens education and promote the safe use of contact lenses worldwide, in partnership with the industry.'



Professor Deborah Sweeney receives the IACLE Award for Lifetime Achievement in Contact Lens Education from President Dr Shehzad Naroo (right) after a tribute from Professor Desmond Fonn (left)