



April 18, 2023

2023 COETF Annual Awards Program

The Canadian Optometric Education Trust Fund (COETF) was created in 1976 to assist programs in research, education and human resources development in the vision and eye care field in Canada.

Through its annual Awards Program, the COETF has supported faculty development, research and/or specialized education programs carried out by graduate students and investigative projects conducted by undergraduates and faculty at Canada's schools of optometry, as well as projects undertaken by independent practitioners or members of the public.

In 2023, the COETF received a total 26 applications. Of those, 17 were granted at least partial funding totalling \$40,250.00 for projects or research. COETF is pleased to announce access to additional funding from the newly established Dorrie Morrow Fund and a new partnership with Fighting Blindness Canada (FBC). The Dorrie Morrow Fund provides additional funding for projects that support children's vision, particularly for marginalized and at-risk children who do not have access to regular vision care. Our new partnership with FBC allows COETF to share award applications that would interest FBC and qualify for additional funding.

Research and academic support are vital to our profession. The Trust Fund is opening doors for new ideas that will resonate throughout optometry in Canada. The COETF is self-funded by optometrists and we are proud that COETF has provided more than \$2million in research funding since 1977. Please give generously and often. Your support will go a long way to making us stronger and better equipped to face the future of health care in Canada. To donate online or download a donation form please [click here](#).

The deadline for applications each year is in early February. For additional information about the application process or a copy of the application form, contact coetf@outlook.com

Institution	Total Applications Received	Total Funding Requested	Total Applications Approved	Total Funding provided
Total Waterloo School of Optometry Applications	19	\$91,150.00	13	\$ 34,250.00
Total Montréal École d'Optométrie Applications	7	\$ 65,200.00	4	\$ 6000.00
Total for 2023	26	\$156,350.00	17	\$ 40,250.00
Totals (since inception)		\$8,346,878.73		\$2,180,073.00



The COETF Annual Awards Program for 2023 – Results

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO		
Mehdi	Al Atrach	Development and testing of a prototype drug-delivering contact lens with vitamin E using an advanced in vitro eye-blink model.
Elizabeth	Drolle	Elucidation of the impact of physiological blinking on the lipid peroxidation of the tear film using a novel in vitro blink model
Piyush	Garg	Development of photopolymerizable biodegradable materials for 3D printing of CL lens and ocular inserts for ocular drug delivery
Shilpa	Gorla	Does enhancement of fluid flow change the biomechanics of presbyopic lenses?
Heather Karen	Hudecki Fan	Examining the Underlying Mechanisms of Dynamic Visual Acuity
Alex	Hui	Anti-viral medication delivery from contact lenses
Cassandra	Huynh	Network and enrichment analysis for the discovery of novel therapeutics for treating ocular surface disease
Naeimeh	Monfared	A Paradigm Shift in Tear Film Evaporation Assessment
Andrew	Silva	The application of non-invasive brain stimulation and temporal stimulus presentations to improve peripheral reading*
David	Wulff	Development of a 3D-printed hydrogel eye model for evaluating ocular drug delivery
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, MONTRÉAL		
Nicolas	Blais	Tele-optometry: Comparison of the remote visual examination with the gold standard in-person examination for remote communities*
Kevin	Messier	The use of OCT-A and the retinal reactivity test in a population of diabetic patients*
Aurélien Sergio	Perdriel Crespo-Garcia	Retina vascular biomarkers associated to the condition of hyperhomocysteinemia using a hyperspectral camera
Solenn	Tissier	Influence of vaping on the neurophysiology of visual functions
DORRIE MORROW FUND AWARD RECIPIENTS		
Lisa	Christian	Developing a model to provide accessible vision care for individuals with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
Marisa	McKinney	Translating Vision Screenings to Eye Exams In Waterloo Region
Susan	Leat	Development of a new differential visual acuity test for infants with blindness and vision loss

**Submitted for additional funding consideration from Fighting Blindness Canada*