



May 9, 2024

2024 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 2024, the COETF received a total 28 applications. Of those, 23 were granted at least partial funding totalling \$29,168.50 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. This year, the Dorrie Morrow Fund funded projects to the amount of \$ 9,168.50. 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	\$ 89,181.00	16	\$ 21, 068.50
Total Montréal École d'Optométrie Applications	8	\$ 53,014.08	7	\$ 8100.00
Independent	1	\$ 8,000.00	-	-
Total for 2024	28	\$156,350.00	23	\$ 29,168.50
Totals (since inception)		\$8,497,073.81		\$2,209,241.50



The COETF Annual Awards Program for 2024 – Results

SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO		
Haile	Darge	Novel cysteine-functionalized chitosan/ β glycerophosphate-based thermosensitive injectable hydrogels for bevacizumab delivery
Parvin	Shokrollahi	Cyclodextrin grafted chitosan particles for Acyclovir delivery to the eye
Sharon	Qiu	Analysis of the Human Limbal Shape in Regular Cornea Populations Using a Novel Corneoscleral Topographer
Shilpa	Gorla	Effects of modulating pump and aquaporin-0 activity on lenticular stiffness
Melanie	Mungalsingh	Improving the orientation and mobility skills of individuals with visual impairments using non-invasive brain stimulation.
Piyush	Garg	The impact of PVA crosslinking on slowing the release of target molecules from novel ocular biomaterials
Nijani	Nagaarudkumaran	Exploring the Role of Autophagy in Regulating Inflammatory Responses in Human Corneal Epithelial Cells
Victor	Opoku-Yamoah	Does lens fluorescence influence adaptive optics fluorescence lifetime ophthalmoscopy (AOFLIO)?
Cassandra	Huynh	Flavonoids as novel anti-inflammatory agents for treating ocular surface disease
Elizabeth	Drolle	The impact of environmental conditions and contaminants on the lipid peroxidation of the tear film using a novel in vitro blink model
Alex Etty	Hui Bitton	Properties of contemporary daily disposable contact lens blister pack solutions
Chau Minh	Phan	Developing an in vitro eye model with cells for simulating dry eye conditions
SCHOOL OF OPTOMETRY, MONTRÉAL		
Ismael	Djerourou	Stimulating the brain with light to restore vision using optogenetic
Catherine	Albert	Development of a preclinical experimental model to study cortical blindness
Dan	Samaha	Effect of topical timolol on optic nerve head oxygenation in a healthy control group
Véronique	Small	Grassy Narrows Anishinaabe First Nation: association between environmental exposure to mercury and retinal structures, observed by optical coherence tomography (OCT).
Etty	Bitton	Effect of microwave power on the heat retention profile of eyelid warming masks
Violaine Florence	Fortier Nadai	Revision du Centre de Lecture de retinopathie diabetique de la clinique universitaire del a vision
DORRIE MORROW FUND AWARD RECIPIENTS		
Langis	Michaud	Retrospective Study of Myopia Management Strategies: A Multi-Center Study
Erica	Chow	Genetic tools for the study of myopia control in zebrafish
Bidarkar	Ashita	ERGs following short-term chromatic adaptation in myopes and nonmyopes
Lauren	Hoare	Eye-body coordination during walking in developing children with amblyopia
Anne Marie	Yeboah	Examination of the Efficacy of Vision Therapy for Post-Concussion Visual Dysfunction