

Teaching the Teachers Phase 2 2015 – 2017

Executive Overview

The ICO is addressing the current and anticipated shortfall of ophthalmologists, particularly in low-income countries, by stimulating and supporting training of eye care teams led by ophthalmologists. Educational programs and initiatives are focused on “teaching the teachers” by helping ophthalmic educators become better teachers with more effective, less expensive, and broader reaching educational offerings, resulting in better trained ophthalmologists and eye health professionals in countries around the world.

Since 2012, the ICO has benefited from \$1.3 million in funding from industry and individual donors, to develop a series of programs targeted to ophthalmic educators. While some Teaching the Teachers programs began prior to 2012, including curricula development and Residency Program Directors Courses, the \$1.3 million donated over a three-year period has made it possible for the ICO to improve and enhance these offerings. At the same time, we have been able to develop evaluation processes that measure the programs’ usefulness and help us better identify opportunities to enhance educator training in the future.

Our Phase 2 plan shifts in focus from one-time teaching interventions, such as a Residency Program Directors Course or delivery of a curriculum, to sustained learning experiences.

Our purpose is to broaden and deepen the impact of our educator programs by adding components that help educators put their newly acquired knowledge and tools into practice and also provide the ICO with the opportunity to reach a larger audience of educators around the world.

In order to execute our Phase 2, the ICO is seeking funding from industry partners, nonprofit organizations, and individual donors. Our projected costs over the three-year period of 2015 through 2017 are \$2,036,000.

Teaching the Teachers Phase 2 Priorities and Strategic Imperatives

During 2015 through 2017, we will build upon the accomplishments of the past few years by focusing our efforts on the most successful aspects and by adding components that provide continuity of education and emphasize outcomes. Ultimately, we envision that ophthalmic education will be recognized as a valid and valued subspecialty within the field of ophthalmology.

Our intention is to focus on six major priorities:

1. In-person and web-based courses and conferences for ophthalmic educators: blending face-to-face courses with online interventions in order to create a continuum of training.
2. Adaptation and implementation of ICO Residency and Subspecialty Fellow Curricula and assessment tools, with emphasis on teaching programs in developing countries.
3. Definition of international guidelines for accreditation of residency training programs, with the goal of promoting uniformity and standards internationally and within a country.
4. Development of standardized international allied eye health job descriptions and validated assessment tools, providing the requisites for a standardized allied eye health team curriculum.
5. Development of an ICO Curriculum for Ophthalmic Educators that formalizes what educators need to know regarding teaching principles, methodologies, and resources.
6. Development of guidelines and implementation of strategies to stimulate and support ophthalmological societies' continuing professional development programs (CPD/CME).

Two strategic imperatives will help shape the future development and growth of our programs:

- First is the ongoing refinement and enhancement of Teaching the Teachers outcomes measurement processes, leading to longer-term monitoring of changes in teaching practices.
- Second is expansion of our database of educators around the world, resulting in a significant increase of participants and volunteer teachers in our education programs.