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Clinical Low vision training

Course description

Dates: 1st -11th November 2010

Place: Moshi-Kilimanjaro-Tanzania

Rationale:

Although precise data do not exist yet, it is estimated that there are over 12 million people needing low vision care in Africa.

Many of these are children aged 0 – 15 years as almost 45% of the population falls in this age group. There is considerable evidence that many children with low vision do not access services that would enable them have the best possible visual function and quality of life. Many have not had access to eye examinations, nor do they go to school. Some children, who are attending schools or annexes for the blind, are being enrolled without a proper eye examination. Even those seen by the eye care provider may not have received proper low vision assessment

Low vision is a hugely neglected area of care affecting children on the African continent; it has become clear that training a pediatric ophthalmologist without training an optometrist on low vision care will not be sufficient to meet the needs of children requiring intervention. There is a need to provide training in low vision care for the proper management of children needing these services. This will promote independence, improve quality of life, and increase access to education to these children

In addition an increasing number of adults and elderly people need low vision services.

Target audience

The target audience for the training would be optometrists with experience in refraction and retinoscopy, both with children and adults. The ideal candidates would be individuals who are working in a paediatric ophthalmology unit and/or are

working in a refraction unit where children also receive services. Referral hospitals and university eye departments interested in improving their low vision service delivery are also encouraged to apply.

Teaching objectives

The training will be in two parts. The first 5 days (1-5 November) cover basic clinical low vision care with emphasis on children. The second part (8-11 November, 4 days) will cover more advanced techniques and low vision care for adults and elderly. See the attachment for more objectives

Training venue and instructors

The training will be conducted at Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO) and the KCMC Eye Department in Moshi -Tanzania. The faculty for the training includes instructors from KCCO as well as external faculty from Nepal and Netherlands.

Budget

The training is partly financed by Dark & Light Blind Care. Participants would need to cover their transport to Kilimanjaro. The fee for the course is US \$600, which covers all expenses (including airport pick up, accommodation, meals, training materials, instructional fees) from the time of arrival. For participants wishing to join the first part of the course only (i.e. basic clinical low vision care), the fee will be less Applicants should complete the application form (www.kcco.net/courses) and send it before 15th October 2010 to Mr. Genes Mng'anya, KCCO Course Administrator at (genes@kcco.net).