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Building research capacity in Africa for VISION 2020

*A course offered at the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology (KCCO)
in collaboration with the Fred Hollows Foundation*

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Moshi, Tanzania

The need to build skills in operational research to help guide VISION 2020 in Africa has been well recognized. While training outside of Africa is possible, it is costly. There is also a need to provide research skills to individuals who have demonstrated a keen interest in research relevant for VISION 2020 in Africa. Conducting research requires a wide range of skills that cannot be acquired in a short period of training. Thus, the approach that KCCO and FHF propose is to first build the capacity in how to write a research proposal followed by building capacity in research implementation and then in writing research publications. The most appropriate way to learn research methods is to undertake research. The focus of the first course will be on developing research proposals for funding and implementation.

Thus, the 5 day course in February 2009 will be for a small group of 6-8 budding researchers in which, by the end of the course, each one of them will have a research proposal ready for submission for funding and ethical approval. Didactic sessions will be followed by individual work on proposals. Participants would receive a book relevant to the preparation of research proposals. All participants will be expected to have reviewed the literature before coming to Moshi.

Potential participants are ophthalmologists or public health professionals from Africa. The number of participants will be kept small as one-on-one support is needed by the faculty. The instructors include:

KCCO: Paul Courtright and Susan Lewallen

FHF: Andreas Mueller and Ciku Mathenge

FHF has made available two scholarships for travel, accommodation, and meals. The scholarships would be based on submission of an application and selection of the best ones.

The fee for the week-long course is \$300. The fee covers accommodation, meals, and daily transport to KCCO from the hotel. It does not include travel to Moshi and costs associated with visas. For an application form please contact Genes Mnganya at genes@kcco.net or download it from the KCCO website (www.kcco.net).