



IAPB Council of Members Meeting
21 September, 2014

AGENDA ITEM 2.1e: Regional reports (for information only)

IAPB NORTH AMERICA REGIONAL REPORT

Reporting regional progress in North America against the three objectives of 'Universal Eye Health: A Global Action Plan 2014-2019'

Objective 1 - Evidence generated and used to advocate increased political and financial commitment of Member States for eye health

Data was reported from the Caribbean region at the December, 2013 regional meeting. CSR reports were provided for many countries. These included Suriname with a CSR of 8000. Guyana with a CSR of 2200, St. Lucia with CSR of 5000. A RAAB is planned for Haiti in the near future. Trinidad and Tobago is conducting a large survey of eye disease involving 7000 people. It is called the NESTT project and the data is due in next year.

Objective 2 - National eye health policies, plans and programmes for enhancing universal eye health developed and/or strengthened and implemented in line with WHO's framework for action for strengthening health systems in order to improve health outcomes

A regional plan for blindness prevention for the Caribbean area has been developed in conjunction with PAHO. In the PAHO overall regional plan there are two eye health indicators. In Guyana, the Vision 2020 national plan will be part of the national health plan. Barbados is developing a national plan. Dominica has made the Vision 2020 part of the national health plan. St. Lucia has placed eye health in the national health plan.

A great deal of effort was devoted to assisting with the development of a national eye health plan for Haiti. This was drafted and approved by the local blindness prevention committee. It is a significant achievement.

The annual Eye Health Summit was held in Washington DC, USA in June 2014. At that meeting updated data was given on the cost of blindness in the US. The US is proceeding with the Healthy Vision 2020 protocol which is a form of national plan.

There is no data from Canada.

Objective 3 - Multisectoral engagement and effective partnerships for improved eye health strengthened

In this area there has been quite a bit of activity.

The IAPB regional chair took part in the North America regional meeting of the WBU. This was the first time that that has occurred and it was very useful. I encourage other regions to do the same.

The Caribbean area is undertaking a situational analysis of diabetic retinopathy detection and treatment in the sub-region, with the support of the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust. This has encouraged an outreach to the internal medicine communities in this area and the development of effective referral linkages.

In Haiti, there is a regular conference call that brings together many of the partner organizations working in the country. It is this group, along with PAHO that has assisted with the creation of the national plan and will begin assisting with its implementation. In addition, IAPB will be chairing a meeting of committed ophthalmologists in the US, with Dr Cadet, head of the eye residency in Haiti to enhance the residency training in that country.

In the US, IAPB has attended the Vision 2020/USA meeting. This group is an excellent forum for all the groups working in eye care in the US, to meet on a regular basis. There will be a Congressional briefing on diabetic retinopathy on WSD 2014 in Washington. Also, IAPB has facilitated the cooperation of USAID and the National Eye Institute in calling a meeting of the Federal agencies working in eye care, to be held in 2015. This is very important advocacy effort. In addition, preliminary discussions have taken place with USAID to host a meeting of the other national development agencies interested in blindness prevention to encourage their continued support.

Prof. Louis Pizzarello

North America Regional Chair