

Board of Trustees Meeting  
28 March, 2014

---

## CONSENT AGENDA ITEM 3.1e: North America Report

---

### IAPB NORTH AMERICA UPDATE REPORT

#### CARIBBEAN

---

The annual Caribbean meeting was held in Kingston, **Jamaica** in December 2013. Representatives from all member states were in attendance and there was much progress to report. Eye care services have increased in nearly every country and resources devoted to eye care have also improved. Human resource development remains a challenge. The school of optometry in **Guyana** as well as the school to be developed in **Haiti** (more on this later) should provide some needed improvements. In the area of diabetic retinopathy, there is the possibility for funding from the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust for some programming. Plans are currently under development and offer an opportunity to deal with a major cause of vision loss in the sub region.

A major focus of activity has been **Haiti**. The Regional Chair has convened monthly conference calls bringing together a group of interested parties including the Haitian National Committee on Blindness Prevention (CNPC), NGOs and PAHO. In January, the Ministry of Health promulgated the ten-year national health plan. In that plan there is inclusion of eye care as a critical component. Building on this will be the compilation of a national blindness prevention plan. Valerie Blot, the coordinator of the CNPC, has been working with a sub group representing IAPB and PAHO to develop a draft plan to be submitted to the CNPC in the next few weeks.

The Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation has been working very hard to develop a school of optometry in Haiti. At this point most but not all of the funding required establishing the school has been committed. A decision on the inauguration date for the school will be made in the month of March. Any organizations wishing to assist with this effort are requested to contact Vivien Ocampo at the Brien Holden Vision Institute Foundation. This school will be very important in fulfilling any national plan.

A national blindness survey will commence in **Trinidad and Tobago**. The results of the survey will be very helpful in assessing the current situation in the sub region.



## USA

---

Vision 2020/USA could not hold the annual Congressional briefing on WSD due to the government shut down. However, the group met by conference call chaired by Mark Ackermann. There will be a spring meeting of the group at a date to be determined. Planning has begun for the annual National Eye Care Summit to be convened by Prevent Blindness in Washington, DC in June. This brings together governmental and voluntary organizations working in eye care in the US.

The Regional Chair continues to work with the National Eye Institute in promoting blindness prevention activities in research both domestically and internationally.

Bob Mc Mullan and Peter Ackland visited the US in January, meeting with LCIF, HKI, ORBIS and the Regional Chair.

Louis Pizzarello, MD MPH  
North America Regional Chair