**Fight for Sight partners with the Chief Scientist Office to fund research into age-related eye disease in Scotland.**

Funding of £200,000 to support a Scottish-led biomedical research project into age-related eye diseases has been made available thanks to a partnership between the Scottish Government’s Chief Scientist Office and Fight for Sight, the UK’s main eye research charity.

The Chief Scientist Office (CSO) is part of the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates. It supports and promotes high quality research aimed at securing lasting improvements to the health of the people of Scotland.

Preliminary applications are invited to support a research project for a maximum of £200,000 into age-related eye diseases such as glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration and cataract. The joint call will be administered by Fight for Sight. As a charity and a member of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), Fight for Sight only funds directly incurred costs.

Applications for joint award will be from lead applicants with tenured posts at recognised Scottish Universities, NHS hospitals or research institutes. Collaborative applications from within Scotland are welcome, although the grant (and associated funding arrangements) will be with the lead applicant's institution. Named academic/clinical co-applicants and collaborators will be permitted from outside Scotland (or from outside the rest of the UK), but the lead applicant must be a permanent salaried member of staff at a Scottish HEI or NHS Health Board.

In addition to addressing age-related eye diseases all applications for this joint award should be relevant to one of [Fight for Sight’s six research priorities](http://www.fightforsight.org.uk/apply-for-funding/research-priority-areas/). The research should be of clinical importance relevant to the Scottish population and be broadly translational showing a clear pathway to patient benefit. The preliminary application deadline is 2 Nov 2016.

Dr Dolores Conroy, Director of Research at Fight for Sight said “We're confident that Scottish-led research funded through this partnership with the CSO will contribute to a better understanding of age related eye diseases that will lead to new treatments for patients.”

Dr Alan McNair, Senior Research Manager at the Scottish Government Chief Scientist Office said “CSO is delighted to partner with Fight for Sight in this exciting research funding initiative. Age related eye diseases can severely impact patients and those close to them. Research is essential if we are to develop effective new treatments for these conditions.”

For more information and details of how to apply please call 020 7264 3904 or visit [www.fightforsight.org.uk/applyforfunding](http://www.fightforsight.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-opportunities/)

**END**

**Notes to Editor:**

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**About Fight for Sight**

1. Fight for Sight is the leading UK charity dedicated to funding pioneering research to prevent sight loss and treat eye disease.

2. Fight for Sight is funding research at leading universities and hospitals throughout the UK. Major achievements to date include:

• saving the sight of thousands of premature babies through understanding and controlling levels of oxygen delivery

• restoring sight by establishing the UK Corneal Transplant Service enabling over 52,000 corneal transplants to take place

• providing the funding for the research leading to the world’s first clinical trial for choroideremia

• bringing hope to children with inherited eye disease by helping to fund the team responsible for the world’s first gene therapy clinical trial

• identifying new genes responsible for keratoconus and Nance-Horan syndrome, inherited retinal diseases and corneal dystrophies

3. Fight for Sight’s current research programme is focusing on preventing and treating age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, cataract and corneal disease. We are also funding research into the causes of childhood blindness and a large number of rare eye diseases.