**LCIF NEWS**

**Introduction**

I would like to open by thanking all Clubs that have donated recently to LCIF, whether it is for the disaster appeals following the hurricane and earthquake in different parts of the world, or to any other of the LCIF funds. The majority of income for LCIF comes from Clubs around the world and it would not be possible for it to make so many grants without the income.

**LCIF grants**

Amongst recent grants the following are of interest:

* LCIF has awarded a grant of £1,640,000 to the Lions Kids Cancer Genome Project in Australia. Together with the Garvan Institute, the Australian Lions Children’s Cancer Research Foundation and other partners this pilot initiative will improve outcomes for hundreds of children with high-risk cancer through whole genome sequencing. This could eventually serve as a model for the development of personalised cancer prevention and treatment. This is another way that LCIF is demonstrating its commitment to global health.
* Since 1993 LCIF has awarded more than £27 million to support the distribution of river blindness (onchocerciasis) medicine Mectizan to approximately 251 million people in 15 African and Latin American countries. The LCIF Sightfirst project has worked in close partnership since 1999 with the Carter Centre – a leader in the fight to end river blindness. The latest success in in Guatemala, where the World Health Organisation has verified that the country is now the fourth in the Americas to be verified free of this disease (the other countries are Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico).
* In October 2016 21 emergency grants totalling £155,800 were made for flood, typhoon, hurricane and earthquake relief.

**LCIF Measles and Rubella Initiative**

The Measles and Rubella Initiative is still continuing and tens of thousands of deaths have been averted – mostly of children. £16 million has been raised to date. LCIF has committed to providing Gavi Alliance (a public-private partnership whose mission is to save children’s lives and protect people’s health) a further £8 million by December 2017. In 2016 Lions and partners have conducted measles activities in six countries and over the next year this will extend into another five or more countries with support from local Lions who play a key role in social mobilisation efforts by working with local leaders, coordinating community-level publicity and serving as volunteers at vaccination centres. Until the involvement of Gavi and LCIF approximately four hundred children were dying every day from measles and rubella. I do hope your Club can make a donation, or further donation, to the LCIF Measles and Rubella Initiative.

**Melvin Jones Fellowships**

Please contact me if your Club wishes to know its credits towards Melvin Jones Fellowships (MJFs) or if help is needed in making an application for a MJF.

**Presentations on LCIF**

As mentioned in previous articles I would be very pleased to give presentations to any Club or Zone on LCIF to assist members in understanding its amazing record of funding for disasters, sight, youth and humanitarian needs since 1968.

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