

## **Novartis present the Fighting Blindness Empower Award to Áine Lennon** <sup>[1]</sup>

### Education & Awareness <sup>[2]</sup>

#### fighting blindness ball

The Fighting Blindness Empowerment Award, sponsored by Novartis, is a special honour given to those who help the charity Fighting Blindness with its mission to cure, support and empower people affected by sight loss. The award was presented to Áine Lennon from County Carlow. Áine, who has a vision impairment, completed a 700km charity cycle from Paris to Nice on a tandem bike, and raised awareness and funds for the charity. The award reflects her incredible achievements as a patient advocate over the past year.

Speaking during the award ceremony, Oliver McCrohan, Novartis said; “Novartis is honoured to have sponsored the Fighting Blindness Empowerment Award for the last three years. Áine is a very worthy winner of the Empowerment Award as she is inspirational, and a shining example of what people can achieve, despite significant challenges. She is truly motivating and we wish her success in her next endeavour”.

Avril Daly, CEO, Fighting Blindness said, “This is an exciting time for Fighting Blindness, we are at the forefront of global research that is demonstrating success in treating conditions causing severe vision loss, but it is also proving to be a tough time for those personally affected. Since launching our Target 5000 project, which aims to provide patients with both a clinical and genetic diagnosis of what are often complex conditions, our counselling support services have been severely over-stretched. Our members are in greater need of support to break the isolation a diagnosis of sight loss can bring”.

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#### **Links**

[1] <https://www.novartis.ie/stories/education-awareness/novartis-present-fighting-blindness-empower-award-aine-lennon>

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