the full range of micronutrients, working to combat hidden hunger in the world’s most vulnerable populations.

Enhancing research in the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies

“Since our inception,” explains Dr. Klaus Kraemer, Managing Director of Sight and Life, “we have run projects with Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. The Sight and Life Global Nutrition Research Institute is dedicated to enhancing research in assessing and preventing micronutrient deficiencies through strengthening faculty, doctoral scholarship, and academic activities, and providing professional opportunities for students.”

Initiatives currently running within the institute include the following:

DSM | Sight and Life Scholars Program
Guiding doctoral and master’s degree students toward careers focused on improving quality of diet.
Micronutrient Reference Laboratory
Facilitating the conduct of a wider range of micronutrient assays.

Quality-of-Diet / Micronutrient Research Faculty Position
Funding a new tenure track position to support the mission of ‘Hopkins Global Nutrition’.

Accelerate Hidden Hunger Assessment
Enabling the assessment of multiple micronutrient deficiencies more quickly and at low cost in low-resource settings.

Sight and Life / DSM Lectureship and Scholar-in-Residence in Micronutrient Deficiency Prevention and Control
Exposing students and faculty to advanced approaches in the prevention of micronutrient deficiencies.

Johns Hopkins / Sight and Life Internship Program
Placing masters’ degree students into field, agency, institutional and research projects aimed at preventing micronutrient deficiencies and improving the quality of diets.

Institute Operations
Supporting activities including the publication of research findings in open access journals.

Scrip Award
In 2018, Sight and Life, DSM and Dhaka-based Beximco Pharma won a Scrip Award in the category ‘Community Partnership’. The award was given in recognition of the Sight and Life Global Nutrition Research Institute’s support of the JiVitA Project, a community-based research project that is seeking to reduce the health burden of micronutrient deficiencies among women and children in rural Bangladesh.

In 2008, Beximco Pharma produced 16 million multiple micronutrient (MM) and iron-folic acid (IFA) tablets, using a DSM vitamin and mineral premix, for a JiVitA study of 45,000 pregnant women (called JiVitA-3). The trial showed that taking a daily MM supplement throughout pregnancy offered greater health benefits over an IFA supplement alone, reducing the numbers of preterm, low birth weight and stillborn infants by 10%–15%.

“The Sight and Life Global Nutrition Research Institute is evolving well,” says Prof. Keith P West Jr, Professor of Infant and Child Nutrition and Director of the Program and Center for Human Nutrition at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, “but if we are to rise to the global nutrition challenges that confront us on all sides, we need to develop a new generation of biologists who understand public health, who are committed to nutrition advocacy, and who want to work in underserved and obese communities. We want to ‘jet-propel’ students into careers in nutrition on the understanding that good nutrition is essential for the future of the human race.”

Feike Sijbesma, CEO & Chairman, Royal DSM N.V., comments: “What binds this partnership together is a common vision and sense of purpose. All three partners want to address the global scourge of malnutrition and to make the world a better place. The partnership would never have survived so long without this common vision and accompanying strong commitment.”

Further information
Website: sightandlife.org
Email: info@sightandlife.org
Telephone: +41 61 815 87 56