



To whom it may concern:

It is a great honor to be nominated for the position of IAPB's Group C Board Member. Being passionate about advocating for universal eye health, I am committed to representing and communicating IAPB's vision ("**Vision for everyone by 2030**").

Inspired by my mentor Prof. Fritz Naumann, I am determined to improve education for young ophthalmologists and affiliated health personnel as the **first pillar** of a solid foundation. As a chairman for more than 18 years, I am immensely proud to have a well-structured and reliable residents training ("*Homburg Curriculum*") as well as surgical, leadership and management teaching for consultants and future leaders in place.

Besides ophthalmology training, research is the **second pillar** I consider most important in order to gain more knowledge and understanding in the treatment of ophthalmic diseases and conditions and also share these in terms of publishing our results in a wide range of articles.

"Think globally act locally" – "Leadership and motivation" – "Performance and loyalty" – "Transparency and communication" – along the lines of these statements, I have always been determined to bring ophthalmologists together and develop cross-country, cross-cultural relationships which is the **third vital pillar**. It is only with teamwork and international cooperation that we can learn from and support each other in the fight against blindness and improving sight for everyone around the world. This is also supported by our **IOFF-Subspecialty Fellowship Program**.

Without an effective and sustainable global framework around eye health, it will not be possible to achieve and maintain eye care globally and prevent blindness/visual impairment ("**help for self-help**").

I am proud to be initiator and part of a number of projects that aim at better ophthalmic care in countries where many patients do not have access to the care they need, e.g. our partnership with the TÀI BỆNH VIỆN MẮT Eye Hospital in Ho-Chi-Minh-City/Vietnam and with the Mengo Eye Hospital in Kampala/Uganda. Together with CBM and Dr. Babar Qureshi we were able to considerably improve organization and people-centered eye care, including building a new well-functioning hospital over the last 6 years in Kampala. This entailed the establishment

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of a new eye bank and a corneal transplantation program, which still represents my major clinical competence.

Coming full circle, I would be delighted to support the IAPB with my knowledge, expertise and network, especially in anticipation of the upcoming global summit for Eye Health and wholeheartedly commit to the fight against blindness and restore vision for all as a part of an excellent international team.

Many thanks and best regards.

Cordially

Berthold Seitz