

Nominee Statement: Dr Andrew Blaikie

Position: IAPB Group C Trustee

Nominee Job Title

Arclight Project Clinical Lead, NHS Ophthalmology Consultant, Senior Lecturer at School of Medicine at University of St Andrews

Nominee Organisation

Arclight Project @ University of St Andrews

Nominating IAPB member organisation

Arclight Project @ University of St Andrews

Nominated by

Helena Feasey

Nominating Statement

I'm delighted to nominate Dr. Andrew Blaikie for the role of Group C Elected Trustee for IAPB. Over the past 18 months working with him, I've been impressed by his energy, expertise, and commitment to improving access to eye care worldwide. His ability to combine research, teaching, training, and advocacy is making a real difference, and I know he would bring the same strengths to IAPB.

Andrew's research has been instrumental in evaluating the clinical effectiveness of the Arclight direct ophthalmoscope-loupe, ensuring it's not only innovative but also practical and impactful in both high-income and low-resource settings. He has led the development of the soon-to-be-launched binocular indirect ophthalmoscope, advancing the detection of conditions such as diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity. However, tools alone are not enough—knowledge and training are just as crucial.

An experienced educator, Andrew delivers training across the NHS, the University of St Andrews, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, equipping students and healthcare workers with essential diagnostic skills. His impact extends globally, having played a key role in developing and implementing training programs in partnership with organisations such as Orbis International, CBM Global, and national



governments. These programs, delivered in countries including Malawi, Mongolia, Ethiopia, and Indonesia, ensure healthcare workers are confident in using diagnostic tools and help embed eye health skills into national training frameworks for long-term sustainability. He has pioneered innovative teaching approaches, such as simulation eyes and using the Arclight with smartphones to capture images and video for learning and diagnosis.

Beyond training, Andrew collaborates with a wide range of partners, including WHO, UNICEF, & Know the Glow, contributing his expertise to global initiatives that integrate eye health into broader healthcare systems. His ability to work across sectors ensures that research, education, and technology align with sustainable eye care solutions.

We're fortunate to have Andrew at the Arclight Project, and I'm confident that his expertise, leadership, and global perspective would be invaluable to IAPB. His dedication to innovation, education, and collaboration makes him an outstanding candidate to support and strengthen IAPB's mission.

Seconded IAPB member organisation

CBM Global Disability Inclusion

Seconding by

Danny Haddad

Seconding Statement

It is my privilege to support Dr Andrew Blaikie's nomination as an elected trustee of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Andrew has demonstrated exceptional commitment to advancing global eye health through innovative teaching, research, and tool development. His collaborative spirit and impactful work make him an ideal candidate to contribute to the governance and strategy of IAPB.

Andrew's work with CBM Global has been transformative in building sustainable eye care systems in low-resource settings. He has provided invaluable leadership in developing and distributing the Arclight device, a frugal, solar-powered diagnostic tool that has revolutionised eye care training globally. Under his guidance, over 46,000 devices have been distributed in nearly 100 countries, empowering healthcare workers to deliver high-quality care where it is needed most. This work has been implemented in partnership with major NGOs, including Orbis, Cure Blindness, TanZanEye, and SENSE International.

In addition to his technical expertise, Andrew is an outstanding educator.



He has personally led workshops in over 20 countries, training healthcare providers in the use of the Arclight and other diagnostic tools. His work has shaped national eye health policies in countries such as Tanzania and Mongolia and influenced WHO guidelines on childhood eye screening.

Andrew's career exemplifies the values of IAPB—collaboration, innovation, and a commitment to eliminating avoidable blindness. His interdisciplinary approach, combining clinical expertise, technological development, and capacity building, ensures sustainable impact in both high- and low-resource settings. His strong relationships with global stakeholders, including universities, NGOs, and governments, reflect his ability to bring diverse perspectives together to achieve shared goals.

As a trustee, Andrew would bring his proven leadership, deep understanding of global eye health, and unwavering dedication to IAPB's mission. I wholeheartedly endorse his nomination and believe his contributions will strengthen IAPB's impact worldwide.

Nominee Statement

[Click here to watch the video.](#)