

Nominee Statement: Professor Berthold Seitz

Position: IAPB Group C Trustee

Nominee Job Title

Chairman and Cornea Specialist

Nominee Organisation

Department of Ophthalmology, Saarland University Medical Center /
German Committee for the Prevention of Blindness (DKVB)

Nominating IAPB member organisation

Deutsches Komitee zur Verhütung von Blindheit/German Committee for the
Prevention of Blindness (DKVB)

Nominated by

Heiko Philippin

Nominating Statement

Joint statement of Dr. Heiko Philippin and Wolfgang Gindorfer:

It is our pleasure to nominate Prof. Dr. Berthold Seitz as Board Member for the IAPB. His dedication to preventing blindness and improving the lives of blind and visually impaired people in our world is enormous, which is reflected by his involvement with various projects in different parts of the world.

In 2006, Prof. Seitz was appointed chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at Saarland University Medical Center in Homburg/Saar, Germany. As member of the **National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina** since 2011, he is also part of its recently founded Section **Global Health**. Prof. Seitz holds a Visiting Professorship of Anhui Provincial Hospital, China, and of the University of Belgrade as well as an Honorary Membership of the Hungarian, Polish and Bulgarian Ophthalmological Societies.

He was **Director of the ICO Fellowships Program** (2016–2020). Since October 2020, Prof. Seitz is **Director of the IOFF-Subspecialty**

Fellowships Program and joined the newly founded **Ophthalmology Foundation** as a Board Member in December 2020. In 2024, he was elected a member of the **Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis**.

One of the most important projects is the exchange program between the **Mengo Eye Hospital in Kampala, Uganda**, and his Department of Ophthalmology over the last 6 years in conjunction with CBM and its medical director Dr. Babar Qureshi. The highlight of this project was the inauguration of the new Eye Hospital in Kampala in 2024.

Since 2013, Prof. Seitz is one of the motors for the **German-Vietnamese exchange program** under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Nhung X. Nguyen from Tübingen. He is a member of the *International Committee for the Classification of **Corneal Dystrophies*** (IC3D) since 2005, aiding to continuously update the classification of corneal dystrophies worldwide. Since 2023, he is member of the Guidelines & Consensus Sub-Committee of the *International **Keratoconus** Society*.

He has always strived to promote education and further development, not just in Germany but around the globe, thus also helping to create and initiate relationships between young ophthalmologists to encourage networking on an international level. His collaboration on many projects and within foreign societies ultimately helps the fight against blindness by making sure everyone will have access to eye care.

Wolfgang Gindorfer and I ask for your support for Berthold Seitz to be elected as board member of IAPB. His integrity, common sense and well-rounded experience in clinical ophthalmology, education, research, project management and public eye health make him a truly strong candidate.

Seconded IAPB member organisation

Light for the World

Seconding by

Wolfgang Gindorfer

Seconding Statement

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