

Nominee Statement: Dr. Waleed M. Alghamdi

Position: IAPB Group C Trustee

Nominee Job Title

President

Nominee Organisation

Saudi Society of Optometry

Nominating IAPB member organisation

Saudi Society of Optometry

Nominated by

Lama Alsamnan

Nominating Statement

I am writing to nominate Dr. Waleed Alghamdi for a trustee position at the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Dr. Alghamdi's unwavering commitment to empowering optometrists and his passion for community service have been remarkable. During his leadership of the Saudi Society of Optometry, he launched initiatives that raised care standards and expanded professional horizons for both practicing and emerging optometrists.

One of his most impactful contributions is integrating community outreach into optometry education. Through hands-on workshops, conferences, and cross-disciplinary collaborations, Dr. Alghamdi ensures students and professionals gain real-world public health experience. This service-oriented approach not only broadens clinical skills but also reinforces a deep sense of responsibility to underserved populations.

As founder of the Sight for All Foundation and visionary behind Basser (meaning "I see"), Dr. Alghamdi has motivated countless optometrists to volunteer, addressing unmet eye care needs in Saudi Arabia. Together, they provide free eye exams, prescription glasses, and specialized low-vision services to communities in need, spotlighting optometry's critical role in reducing preventable blindness. By fostering a collaborative atmosphere,



he unites various stakeholders to maximize impact on public health.

Moreover, Dr. Alghamdi's efforts have strengthened alliances between optometrists and local agencies, further enhancing the profession's influence. He promotes research-driven strategies and policy advocacy, ensuring optometrists' perspectives shape decisions about eye care accessibility and standards.

I have personally witnessed how Dr. Alghamdi's vision, leadership, and tireless dedication inspire both practitioners and patients. His ability to unite people around a common cause and consistently deliver tangible results is truly exemplary. It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend him for a trustee role at IAPB. I am confident his expertise, innovative mindset, and collaborative spirit will drive meaningful progress for global eye health.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lama Alsamnan, OD
Board Member, Saudi Society of Optometry

Seconded IAPB member organisation

World Council of Optometry (WCO)

Seconding by

Dr. Priya Morjaria

Seconding Statement

I am pleased to support the nomination of Dr. Waleed M. Alghamdi for a trustee position at the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). As a respected optometrist, academic, and public health leader, Dr. Alghamdi has been instrumental in advancing eye health initiatives, education, and research in Saudi Arabia and the region.

As President of the Saudi Society of Optometry (SSO), he has worked to integrate public health optometry into professional development and foster collaborations that address preventable blindness. His leadership in organizing platforms for experts, researchers, and policymakers has strengthened evidence-based strategies in vision care. His research contributions in childhood vision impairment and low vision rehabilitation further highlight his commitment to data-driven solutions.

Representing the Middle East, Dr. Alghamdi brings a unique perspective and experience in shaping vision care policies and implementing sustainable programs in diverse healthcare settings. His strategic vision and research-driven approach will be invaluable in advancing IAPB's

mission to eliminate preventable blindness worldwide.

Dr. Priya Morjaria
Public Health Chair, World Council of Optometry (WCO)

Nominee Statement

I am deeply honored to submit my candidacy for a trustee position at the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). As an optometrist, academic, and President of the Saudi Society of Optometry, I have dedicated my career to expanding vision care, raising public awareness, and preventing avoidable blindness—goals that strongly resonate with IAPB’s mission.

In founding Sight for All Foundation, the first Saudi non-profit focused exclusively on eye health promotion and blindness prevention, I created programs that integrate healthcare professionals, volunteers, and donors. Our flagship initiative, Baseer (“I See”), has facilitated free eye exams, prescription glasses, and low vision aids for over 10,000 underserved individuals, including specialized lenses for conditions like keratoconus. Witnessing how quality vision care can transform a child’s educational journey or an adult’s economic prospects has solidified my commitment to ensuring universal access.

As Chairman of the Saudi Society of Optometry, I have worked to embed public health optometry into education and professional development. Through the Community Eye Health Symposium Series, experts, researchers, and policymakers converge to address pressing vision impairment challenges, fostering collaboration and evidence-based solutions. This platform also promotes data-driven strategies to integrate optometry within broader health systems and empower local communities.

My research contributions include co-authoring multiple papers on childhood vision impairment, low vision rehabilitation, and preventable ocular diseases. I also serve on committees shaping vision health policies in Saudi Arabia and the Middle East, advocating for systematic screenings, timely interventions, and stronger public awareness campaigns.

Looking ahead, I plan to expand Baseer, forge international collaborations, mentor emerging professionals, and champion innovative research that targets underserved communities. These steps will help improve access to comprehensive vision care and reduce preventable blindness worldwide.

Why IAPB?

My commitment to research-driven strategies, policy development, and inclusive community engagement aligns with IAPB’s vision. My history of leadership, collaboration, and fundraising across diverse stakeholders

ensures I can effectively drive

Waleed M. Alghamdi, PhD
SSO