

# Nominee Statement: Dr Fatima Kyari

**Position: IAPB Africa Regional Chair**

## Nominee Job Title

Associate Professor

## Nominee Organisation

International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH)

## Nominating IAPB member organisation

Eye Foundation Hospital / Lambo Eye Institute

## Nominated by

Dr. Kunle Hassan

## Nominating Statement

Dr Fatima Kyari is an accomplished and highly qualified medical professional with a focus on ophthalmology, public health, and medical education. She is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at University of Abuja and Associate Professor of Ophthalmic Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK. She is a consultant ophthalmologist and the Clinical Glaucoma Lead at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada, Abuja-FCT. She has administrative responsibilities as the Director of the Institute for Advanced Medical Research and Training (IAMRAT) at the University of Abuja. She is the Registrar/CEO of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), This has given her a wide exposure to the governance role in influencing both the professional colleagues and government role in healthcare policy implementation.

She holds an impressive academic background, earning a PhD in Public Health with a specialised focus on Ophthalmic Epidemiology and Physicians' Practice Patterns (glaucoma) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London, in 2016. Prior to this, she obtained an MSc in Public Health for Eye Care from the same institution. Dr Fatima Kyari graduated with an MB,BS from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1990.

Dr Fatima Kyari started specialist practice in the field of ophthalmology 31

years ago and her career has grown and matured through academia, medical education, research, administration, and clinical and community health service delivery. Her work enabled her growth through progressive positions of greater responsibility.

Her journey highlights the importance of advocacy in engaging the many and varied stakeholders, who made policy decisions at both national, regional and international levels.

Fatima has played key roles in international research and surveys that has earned her accolades both nationally and internationally. She has also played key roles in the private sector as a member of the board of directors of Health management organisations, banking industry etc, Her corporate governance experience and integrity will add value to position she is been nominated for.

Fatima is a smart hard worker, focused, polyvalent, humble, a team player and passionately committed to her believes and responsibilities. She is strongly recommended for IAPB Africa Chair.

### **Seconded IAPB member organisation**

Peek Vision

### **Seconding by**

Prof. Andrew Bastawrous

### **Seconding Statement**

Dr. Fatima Kyari is an exceptional leader in ophthalmology, public health, and medical education, making her an ideal candidate for the role of IAPB Africa Regional Chairperson. With over three decades of experience, she has demonstrated outstanding commitment to eye health advocacy, research, policy development, and capacity building across Africa.

Currently, Dr. Kyari serves as CEO and Registrar of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), where she plays a pivotal role in regulating medical and dental practice in Nigeria, overseeing medical education standards, professional ethics, and workforce development. This is one of the most senior medical roles on the continent of Africa and is a measure of Fatima's good standing in the region. In addition, she is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Abuja and Ophthalmic Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where I have had the pleasure to work alongside Fatima for many years, seeing her commitment to research, teaching and capacity building. She is a consultant ophthalmologist and Clinical Glaucoma Lead at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital.



Dr. Kyari has been deeply involved in eye health policy and research. She played a pivotal role in the Nigeria Blindness Survey (2005-2007), ensuring high standards in clinical data collection and team management across all 36 states and the FCT. Her pioneering work in glaucoma care has influenced national policies and service delivery models in Africa. She spearheaded the Glaucoma-NET initiative, which enhances glaucoma management in low-resource settings.

Her advocacy and leadership in eye health extend beyond Nigeria. Dr. Kyari has significantly contributed to eye care policy formulation, notably leading the development of Nigeria's National Eye Health Policy (2019) and co-authoring key Commonwealth policy briefs that have shaped global eye health strategies. In 2018, she led glaucoma program development in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Uganda.

Dr. Kyari is also a passionate educator and mentor, actively involved in training the next generation of Ophthalmologists and public health professionals. With her vast expertise, strategic vision and deep commitment to universal eye health coverage, she is well positioned to lead IAPB Africa in driving impactful policies, fostering collaborations.

## **Nominee Statement**

I am honoured to submit my nomination for the position of Chair, IAPB Africa, driven by a deep commitment to accelerating progress toward universal access to quality eye care across the continent.

My work spans clinical ophthalmology, eye and vision research, public health for eye care, and medical education. I have worked on formulating and implementing policies and initiatives that drive sustainable and impactful change with a consistent focus on improving eye health outcomes.

### **Professional Leadership & Contributions to Eye Health**

Currently, I serve as CEO and Registrar of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), a position of significant responsibility overseeing the regulation of medical and dental professions in Nigeria, one of the largest healthcare systems in Africa. This role positions me to engage effectively with policymakers, professional bodies, patient groups and government institutions at national and regional levels.

### **Impact in Policy, Research & Advocacy**

I led the development of the Nigeria National Eye Health Policy (2019). My doctoral research focused on public health and glaucoma, providing relevant data now being used to support effective planning, clinical capacity development, resourcing and implementation of services.



In 2019, I led the development of the toolkit for the management of glaucoma in Africa, and the development of the glaucoma care programmes in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, and Mozambique.

Additionally, I contributed significantly to Commonwealth policy documents, and the WHO's world report on vision which have shaped global strategies for eye health integration into universal health coverage frameworks.

### **Vision for IAPB Africa**

If elected as Chair of IAPB Africa, I will expand on my experiences and learnings as IAPB co-Chair (West Africa) and member of the IAPB Board and Executive Committee to strengthen political engagement and regional collaboration, ensuring that eye health remains a priority in national health agendas. I will enhance synergy, where governments, professional bodies, and development partners align efforts toward the 2030 In Sight goals. I will mobilise commitments, encouraging active participation in the Global Summit on Eye Health. IAPB Africa must be a strong, responsive, innovative force in shaping the future of eye health in the region, and I am committed to lead this transformation.