

# Nominee Statement: Dr. Valeria Sánchez Huerta

**Position: IAPB Latin America Regional Chair**

## Nominee Job Title

CEO

## Nominee Organisation

Asociación para Evitar la Ceguera en Mexico, IAP

## Nominating IAPB member organisation

Fundacion Vision Paraguay

## Nominated by

Ryan Toews

## Nominating Statement

It is an honor for me, as a member of IAPB, to nominate Dr. Valeria Sánchez Huerta for the position of Regional Chair for Latin America.

Since I met her, she has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to improving eye health at both the national and regional levels, making her the ideal candidate for this leadership role.

In our organization we think she could interpret and apply this knowledge in the Latin American context and that she is has equipped to offer pragmatic solutions that address both local challenges and globally aligned eye health strategies.

In 2024 the position of Chair of the region became vacant and she has taken on the responsibility of leading the region, doing so with great dedication and fostering union and exchange among the organizations. This made us see her skills to interact with various levels of government and her capacity to create strategic alliances, qualifications that are essential in driving initiatives and would be an invaluable contribution if she continues in this position.



We saw that Dr. Sánchez's leadership has been relevant in achieving more effective integration of eye health strategies into regional public health programs.

For all these reasons, I am confident that Dr. Valeria Sánchez Huerta would fit perfectly in the position of Latin American Regional Chair, thinking on the current needs and also she would continue advancing the fight for eye health in the region using her experience, knowledge, and dedication which are essential qualities for undertaking this important responsibility.

Ryan Toews  
CEO  
Fundacion Vision Paraguay

### Seconded IAPB member organisation

Instituto Mexicano de Oftalmología, IAP

### Seconding by

MBA, MD Ellery Lopez Star

### Seconding Statement

As CEO of the Instituto Mexicano de Oftalmología, I am proud to second the nomination of Dr. Valeria Sánchez Huerta for the position of Regional Chair for Latin America. Dr. Sánchez's qualifications and experience make her an exceptional candidate for this important role, which requires strategic thinking, advocacy, facilitation, and representation — all of which she excels at.

Dr. Sánchez has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of the complexities surrounding eye health in Latin America and has proven herself to be an outstanding advocate for improving access to care. Her ability to engage with diverse stakeholders, including government bodies and international organizations, has resulted in impactful partnerships that address the region's eye health challenges.

Her leadership at the Asociación para Evitar la Ceguera en México has been instrumental in advancing eye health policy in the region. Dr. Sánchez's skill in facilitating dialogue and collaboration between different countries and organizations has contributed significantly to building a unified approach to eye care in Latin America. She has a unique ability to bring together various partners, aligning efforts and resources to create meaningful change.

Moreover, Dr. Sánchez's experience in advocating for policy reform at both the national and regional levels has been critical in shaping effective and sustainable solutions for eye health. Her work has demonstrated her capacity to represent the interests of Latin America on global platforms, ensuring that the region's needs are heard and addressed.

For all these reasons, I am confident that Dr. Valeria Sánchez Huerta has the expertise, vision, and leadership qualities necessary to fulfill the role of Regional Chair for Latin America. I fully support her nomination and believe she will continue to be a powerful force for positive change in our region.

MBA, MD. Ellery López Star  
Presidente del Patronato y Director General  
Instituto Mexicano de Oftalmología, I.A.P.

### Nominee Statement

As a Mexican ophthalmologist and the CEO of the Asociación Para Evitar la Ceguera en México (APEC), I am deeply committed to advancing eye health not only in Mexico but across Latin America. It is with this passion and dedication that I seek to take on the role of Regional Chair of Latin America for the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), contributing to the ambitious targets outlined in the 2030 InSight. I believe my background and experience uniquely position me to engage with IAPB and help drive the impactful work needed to make meaningful progress in our region.

Having led APEC for several years, I have been at the forefront of initiatives to combat blindness and vision impairment, working directly with governments, healthcare providers, and local communities. This experience has given me the insight needed to understand the multifaceted challenges facing eye health in Latin America, ranging from limited access to care in rural areas to insufficient awareness of eye diseases. I am driven to change these realities, and I see the IAPB as the ideal partner in this mission.

As Regional Chair, I will work closely with IAPB to ensure effective political engagement at national levels, especially as we prepare for the Global Summit on Eye Health in 2026. This summit is a pivotal moment for advancing global eye health goals, and it will be crucial to have strong, coordinated political support and a clear strategy for its execution. I am committed to engaging national leaders and policymakers to ensure that eye health remains a priority, that commitments are made, and that progress is



monitored. Through advocacy and dialogue, we can drive meaningful policy change.

Another priority for me is facilitating strategic discussions and forums with IAPB members and other stakeholders. This collaborative approach is key to developing evidence-based, prioritized programs and policies that can be implemented across the region. By encouraging regional planning and fostering collaboration, we can ensure that we take a unified approach to tackling eye health challenges in Latin America.

Finally, I will focus on identifying new members and stakeholders who share our vision for 2030 InSight. Expanding our network of allies will strengthen our collective efforts and provide the resources needed to achieve the ambitious goals set for 2030.

[Click here for the statement.](#)