

Nominee Statement: Haotian Lin

Position: IAPB Western Pacific Regional Chair

Nominee Job Title

President

Nominee Organisation

Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University

Nominating IAPB member organisation

Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, Sun Yat-sen University

Nominated by

Haotian Lin

Nominating Statement

Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center (ZOC) is pleased to nominate Professor Haotian Lin for the position of Regional Chair for the West Pacific Region. Professor Lin's extensive qualifications and unwavering commitment to eye health make him an exceptional candidate for this pivotal role.

As President at ZOC, recognized as China's premier institution for ophthalmology, Professor Lin has demonstrated transformative leadership that enables ZOC to create substantial national, regional, and global impacts in the field. In 2023, ZOC was designated as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Eye Care and Vision, serving as a technical arm to advance WHO's mission across various scales.

Beyond his leadership abilities, Professor Lin has actively engaged in advocacy efforts with governments, effectively translating complex eye health data into actionable policies. His successful campaigns have led to increased funding and resources for eye health initiatives, showcasing his capacity to influence decision-makers and drive systemic change—an essential requirement for the IAPB.

Professor Lin has made significant research contributions that enhance understanding of prevalent eye diseases and their community impacts. This solid evidence base informs policies and frameworks at both national and global levels. He has also developed the world's first artificial intelligence



platform for diagnosing and treating eye diseases, a micron-level remote ophthalmic surgical robot and a 5G smart ophthalmic consultation vehicle. These innovations have significantly enhanced the quality and efficiency of ophthalmic resources.

He has excelled in developing strategies for national and regional approaches to policy and system change, integrating eye health into broader health systems to ensure it receives the attention and resources it deserves. His strategic vision aligns with IAPB's mission to promote universal eye health, positioning him well to lead discussions that shape the future of eye care.

Furthermore, he has a proven track record of building partnerships across various sectors. He has collaborated with NGOs, academic institutions, and international bodies, including WHO headquarters and country offices. His ability to act as a conduit for knowledge enhances the capacity to address eye health challenges effectively.

Seconded IAPB member organisation

He Eye Specialist Hospital

Seconding by

Wei He

Seconding Statement

I am writing to express my strong support for Professor Haotian Lin's candidacy for the position of Western Pacific Regional Chair of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB). Given his exemplary leadership and substantial contributions to the field of eye health, I firmly believe that Professor Lin is extraordinarily well-suited for this esteemed role.

As the Director of Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, the largest eye hospital in China, Professor Lin has led the center to remarkable heights. It is the only WHO Collaborating Center for Eye Care and Vision in China and has consistently ranked #1 for ophthalmology specialty reputation in China's Best Hospitals Ranking for 15 consecutive years. Additionally, the center holds the title of #1 globally among ophthalmic institutions in the Nature Index.

Professor Lin's research accomplishments are exceptional, with over 200 publications in SCI-indexed journals, including Nature, Science, and The Lancet. His research has had a significant impact on various institutions across China and along the other regional initiatives, where his efforts have

facilitated the screening of over 50 million individuals for eye diseases. Furthermore, Professor Lin initiated the Bright Journey to One Hundred Cities project, which screened more than 150,000 individuals and provided essential eye care services to over 100,000 patients, significantly benefiting underserved communities. His active involvement in the WHO SPECS initiative and participation in global discussions, including the WHO SPECS 2030 initiative, underscore his effectiveness in advocating for eye health and fostering collaboration among national governments and international stakeholders.

Professor Lin is also adept at building strategic partnerships and has organized influential workshops and seminars that promote knowledge exchange among eye health professionals. His remarkable communication skills and unwavering commitment to enhancing eye health further affirm his suitability for the Western Pacific Regional Chair position.

In summary, I wholeheartedly recommend Professor Haotian Lin for the position of Western Pacific Regional Chair of IAPB. His extensive expertise, proven track record of success, and deep dedication to improving global eye health make him an ideal candidate who will undoubtedly drive significant advancements in eye care.

Nominee Statement

I am honored to accept the nomination for the position of IAPB Regional Chair for the Western Pacific Region. With a dedicated career in ophthalmology and a profound commitment to advancing eye health, I am well-equipped to take on this pivotal role.

My journey in eye health began at the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center (ZOC), where I currently serve as President. Under my leadership, ZOC has emerged as China's leading institution in ophthalmology, recognized for its transformative impact on national and regional scales. In 2023, we were designated a WHO Collaborating Centre for Eye Care and Vision, a testament to our commitment to global health initiatives. This position has further solidified my understanding of global policies and frameworks, which I believe are crucial for addressing the pressing eye health challenges in our region.

I have extensive knowledge of eye health issues, particularly in leveraging innovative solutions to empower eye care and align national and regional efforts. For example, seeing the high prevalence of refractive errors in the Asia Pacific, I spearheaded the SPECS Asia initiative to foster collaboration among stakeholders. This initiative aims to enhance effective



coverage and advocate for political engagement aligned with global objectives, honing my ability to facilitate strategic discussions that unite diverse interests.

My advocacy efforts have successfully driven the implementation of policies that prioritize eye health. I have successfully engaged with governmental bodies, establishing strong relationships with local governments and WHO headquarters and country office. This network allows me to advocate effectively for policies that address our shared priorities and advance eye health on a broader scale, including co-hosting a training workshop with WHO on integrated people-centred eye care in 2024.

Moreover, I am dedicated to knowledge transfer, ensuring that global evidence and best practices are integrated into local contexts. I actively champion the voices of grassroots organizations, ensuring that insights from national and regional stakeholders inform our global advocacy efforts. This commitment to collaboration empowers us to develop comprehensive strategies for policy and system change.

I look forward to the opportunity to contribute significantly to the advancement of eye health across our region. Thank you.