



# Nominee Statement: M. Babar Qureshi

## Position: IAPB Vice President

### Nominee Name

M. Babar Qureshi

### Nominee Job Title

Director, Inclusive Eye Health

### Nominee Organisation

CBM Christian Blind Mission

### Nominating IAPB member organisation

IAPB

### Represented by:

Victoria M. Sheffield, Vice President

### Seconded by:

Caroline Harper

### Seconding IAPB member organisation:

Sightsavers

### Seconding Statement

Joint Statement: Caroline and I are honored to nominate Dr. Babar Qureshi for Vice President of IAPB. He has dedicated his life and career to preventing blindness and improving the lives of blind and visually impaired people in our world. Born in Pakistan, his family moved to Nigeria where he grew up and earned his medical degree in 1986. Having completed his ophthalmology residency in Austria in 1990 and a master's degree in Community Eye Health from University College, London in 1996, he spent eight years as an ophthalmologist in Nigeria before returning to Pakistan giving him deep, on-the-ground experience in both Africa and Asia. Babar is a leader and to see his impressive list of positions, go to his 2020 Vision Excellence Award write-up at



<https://www.iapb.org/connect/members/vision-excellence-awards/vision-excellence-awards-babar-qureshi/> Babar has been a medical advisor to CBM since 1997, is a co-chair of IAPB's Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMR), and holds leadership positions within ICO and IAPB. Babar is an educator and helped develop a master's course in Community Eye Health and an AOP course in Pakistan, and national eye health programs in 18 countries in the EMR. His research includes RAAB and trachoma studies in Pakistan. His many awards include the 2009 Prince Abdulaziz bin Ahmed Al Saud Award. Babar was active in the launch of "VISION2020: The Right to Sight" in 1999 and supported country launches worldwide.

Babar understands IAPB and has been involved in its initiatives for most of its history. His well-rounded experience in clinical ophthalmology, the disability sector, education, research, and public eye health make him a strong asset for IAPB's Board leadership. He has agreed to take on the Board's governance role should he be called to do so. Babar embodies IAPB's values of plurality and collaboration, represents IAPB well and will continue to raise the profiles of IAPB and Universal Eye Health. He is a fine communicator and strategic thinker, and we know Babar to be one of the kindest and finest human beings we have ever known.

Caroline and I ask for your vote for Dr. Babar Qureshi to be the next Vice President of IAPB. He is the right person at the right time to help lead IAPB in fulfilling its role as the key advocate for eye health in our world.

### Nominee Statement

I am honoured to have been nominated for the position of IAPB's Vice President. I am committed to preventing blindness and improving the lives of people who are blind and visually impaired and would be delighted if I was given the opportunity to further this work in this new role.

We find ourselves at a critical juncture in the eye health sector as we evaluate the impact of the Vision 2020 initiative and embark on a new decade during which we will jointly strive to implement Integrated People-Centred Eye Care as part of Universal Health Coverage. IAPB will act as a catalyst, with the Vice Presidency playing a key role in bringing the eye health sector together in this effort.

I am passionate about advocating for universal eye health and committed to representing and communicating IAPB's vision. My varied past positions have allowed me to create strong networks at local, regional, national, and international levels, and in the medical, disability, education and NGO sectors which will put me in an excellent position to raise the profile of IAPB and universal eye health with different audiences.

My involvement in IAPB from its inception and serving as a board member for the last several years, have given me a profound understanding of the organisation's approach and structure. My career to date is an embodiment of the values of plurality and collaboration that are the touchstones of IAPB's work as a membership organisation. I have the leadership skills to guide and support the IAPB Senior Management Team, and the strategic skills to play a part in the creation of IAPB's direction and to provide continual evaluation of IAPB's performance to ensure the organisation achieves its strategy and targets.

My strategic priorities for IAPB over the next 4 years would be to:

1. Promote the post-Vision 2020 agenda of 'Vision for everyone by 2030'.
2. Drive the implementation of Integrated People-Centred Eye Care (IPEC) as part of Universal Health Care through collaboration with our members of the IAPB.
3. Bring together the membership of this organization and working together with their strengths to attain our mutual goal.

I will be working to the very best of my ability towards making sure that equitable, inclusive, and integrated eye health is a reality for all. I hope I can count on your vote to elect me as the next IAPB Vice President.