



1000 Westgate Drive • Suite 260
Saint Paul, MN 55114
612-625-5159
LionsGiftofSight.org

April 4, 2019

Eye Bank Association of America
1101 17th Street NW, Suite 400
Washington DC 20036

Dear EBAA,

I am writing to support the application of Stephen Kaufman, MD, PhD, to serve on the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) Board of Directors. Dr. Kaufman has been an Associate Medical Director for Lions Gift of Sight since 2007. He fills in when our medical director is unavailable, has responded to consults, and provides advice as needed. He has been involved with the EBAA for many years, serving on several boards and committees, including the Medical Advisory Board.

Dr. Kaufman has had an interest in ocular tissue storage research since medical school, where he conducted research which led to the first 14-day cold storage media (K-Sol), the precursor of Optisol. His other eye bank-related research continues as he seeks to advance the science of eye banking and her own fund of knowledge.

Dr. Kaufman has recently been recruited to return to the University of Minnesota Medical School in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences (OVNS). In OVNS he will serve as Medical Director and Vice Chair for Clinical Services as well as other roles, including a heavy clinical load as a practicing ophthalmologist. He understands the physician's concerns involving eye banking and the challenges faced by professionals in eye banking. He is aware that the field of eye banking faces competition in serving hospitals and placing tissue; works hard to meet regulatory requirements; and is dedicated to providing the best tissue for sight-saving procedures and preventing blindness by providing tissue to researchers for future cures.

As an association, the EBAA impressively responds to changing environments while planning for the future. I know Dr. Kaufman can continue to be of service to this important organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean M Poppoff", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Sean M Poppoff
Interim Executive Director