

March 23, 2020

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

Dear Eye Bank Association of America,

On behalf of Lions Gift of Sight, 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, responds to consults and provides advice as needed. He has been involved with the EBAA for many years including service 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 his own fund of knowledge.

Dr. Kaufman returned to the University of Minnesota Medical School in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Neurosciences (OVNS) in 2019. In OVNS he serves as Medical Director and Vice Chair for Clinical Services as well as other roles including a heavy clinical load as a practicing ophthalmologist. He has a fundamental understanding of physician concerns and the challenges faced by professionals in eye banking. He is aware that the field of eye banking faces increasing competition in serving hospitals and placing tissue; works hard to meet regulatory requirements; is dedicated to providing the best tissue for sight saving procedures and preventing blindness by providing tissue to researchers for future cures; and is committed to developing cutting edge technologies in eye banking.

The Eye Bank Association of America must respond to a constantly changing environment and focus on serving member needs all the while planning for the future. As I have come to know Dr. Kaufman over the past year, I am certain that he will be a strong advocate and leader our association as we look towards our future.

Sincerely,

Sean M Poppoff

Executive Director
Lions Gift of Sight