

April 14, 2020

Kevin P. Corcoran, CAE
President and CEO
Eye Bank Association of America

Via email: kevin@restoresight.org

RE: **Christopher Sales, MD, MPH** application for at-large position on BOD for EBAA

Dear Kevin,

This letter is being written on behalf of Christopher Sales, MD, MPH with the **highest level of support** of his application for an at-large position on the Board of Directors of the Eye Bank Association of America.

As most people already know, Chris is an exceptionally well-trained and talented cornea specialist. In his very short post-training career to date, he has established himself as an innovator and exceptional teacher in the field of corneal surgery. Descemet membrane endothelial keratoplasty (DMEK) is currently the purest form of corneal endothelial transplantation that corneal surgeons can do, but there has been relatively slow uptake of this procedure by the general corneal surgical community. This is because of the complexities of the tissue handling that are unpredictable, leading to higher rates of complications. Dr. Sales has brought many innovations to this procedure to try to help improve the uptake with surgeons. He has developed, presented, and published on new techniques to help make this procedure easier and more reliable. He is well-known throughout the entire cornea community for his “DMEK dance” presentation that helps novice and experienced surgeons alike achieve better results. Dr. Sales is not only a highly sought-after speaker for national presentations and teaching opportunities (which he participates in extensively), but he also consistently receives the very highest ratings from event participants. Many surgeons credit their ability to do this procedure to Dr. Sales’ outstanding instruction. What strikes me as unique and very impressive is that Dr. Sales is able to communicate his teaching to learners at all levels, ranging from medical students all the way up to senior faculty, and he receives the highest marks from everyone.

Do not be fooled by the few years that he has been in practice and humble demeanor, and mistake that for any naivety about eye banking. Chris has been an active member of the EBAA, and he has served on the Accreditation Board for the last 2 years. Through all of this, he has demonstrated not only a commitment to the profession of eye banking, but he has contributed greatly with his ideas that stem from a deep understanding of not only eye banking practices, but the external forces that affect the profession.

Chris is wise beyond his years, and he will not shy away from the challenging discussions and difficult decisions that one might face on the BOD. He is extremely thoughtful and constructive and will voice his opinions with respect. Because he has entered into our field at such a time of change, his perspectives as an innovative younger surgeon and an expert in public health will be extremely useful to the Board.

Furthermore, by choosing Chris to serve on the Board, you will be choosing a future leader of the EBAA: I have no doubt that once you see his performance on the Board, you will want him for succession planning for the future of the EBAA. If you want someone to do the job right, with passion, and with timeliness, Chris is definitely the one!

In summary, Chris has my **full and highest level of support** of his application for an at-large position on the Board of Directors of the Eye Bank Association of America.

Thank you for your consideration, and if I could be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Jeng', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bennie H. Jeng, MD, MS
Professor and Chair