

LETTER OF SUPPORT

RE: Nomination for EBAA Board of Directors

Applicant: Maria Soledad Cortina

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to provide my unreserved support for Dr. Cortina's nomination to the EBAA Board of Directors. I have known Dr. Cortina since I was a resident and fellow at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. Dr. Cortina is one of the most well-respected cornea faculty in their department due to her surgical expertise in corneal transplantation and her outstanding research contributions in the field of keratoprotheses.

She has been highly active in eye banking throughout her career. She currently serves on the Medical Advisory Committee for Eversight. She was also a fellow participant in the EBAA Physician Leadership Program and currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Scientific Programs Committee of the EBAA. Dr. Cortina has consistently been a huge advocate for eye banking and has made education related to eye banking an important component of the cornea fellowship at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Dr. Cortina represents the best of the mid-career cornea specialists who have seen the evolution of corneal transplantation from PKP to DSAEK to DMEK and have adapted with the technology through their careers. As a female surgeon who was born outside of the U.S., Dr. Cortina truly has my respect for all the challenges she has overcome to achieve what she has in her career. Based on her clinical and research background, she has an intimate understanding of the challenges facing the eye banking community from disruptive technology like endothelial cell cultures. She always brings fresh perspectives and an open mind to discussions. She is someone who encourages discussion and manages disputes well. She is easy to work with, but diligent, hard-working, and well organized.

Due to her background, I believe she is the type of voice that is indispensable to the future of the cornea and eye banking community. As such, I fully support Dr. Cortina as a nominee for the EBAA Board of Directors and I hope you seriously consider her for service on the Board.

Sincerely,

Joshua H. Hou, MD
Medical Director, Lions Gift of Sight
Associate Professor, Cornea Service
Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Neurosciences
University of Minnesota