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April 19, 2023

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 Dr. Stephen Kaufman, 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 Vice Chair for Clinical Services as well as other leadership roles while serving patients in a busy and complex cornea practice. He has a fundamental understanding of physician concerns and the challenges faced by professionals in eye banking. He is aware that our eye banks face new (and some not so new) challenges in serving our partners in donation. Of note is Dr. Kaufman's commitment to research and development as we all seek improvements and innovation for sight saving procedures, and therapies that will prevent and cure corneal blindness.

The Eye Bank Association of America must respond to a constantly changing environment and focus on serving member needs all the while planning for our future. As I have come to know Dr. Kaufman, 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