

March 8, 2023

Dear EBAA Nominating Committee,

I would like to offer my strongest support for the nomination of Stephen C. Kaufman, MD, PhD to the EBAA Board of Directors. Dr. Kaufman is an associate medical director of the Minnesota Lions Gift of Sight Eye Bank. He has been a dedicated and knowledgeable member of the EBAA community since 2010. He has served on numerous committees with leadership roles in Scientific Programs and a previous term as an at-large board member. Dr. Kaufman was the recipient of the Paton Award in 2020.

Dr. Kaufman's involvement in eye banking and ocular tissue storage research started in medical school with projects that translated to improving our current practices. He is a busy clinician, researcher, and administrator, as evidenced by his numerous roles including Vice-Chair of Ophthalmology and Co-Director of Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the University of Minnesota, and Medical Director of Eye Care Services for the M-Health Fairview System. He has served on the boards of the Cornea Society and Minnesota Academy of Ophthalmology. In addition, he has been active on the board of two eye banks, which enables him to understand in detail the procedures and challenges across different EBAA member organizations.

With his long-standing and diverse experience, Dr. Kaufman can offer expert insights along with flexible and creative thinking. He can both lead and work collaboratively. I have personally worked with Dr. Kaufman when he was appointed secretary of the board at The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, and collaborated with him on EBAA funded research. He is a model physician to work with and learn from.

Dr. Kaufman has unique qualities that will contribute to the EBAA Board's ability to function at its highest level. He has the attributes of a collegial and ethical board member who can think outside of the box, be receptive to a variety of perspectives, and execute strategy.

Respectfully,



Michelle K. Rhee MD

Medical Director, The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration, Inc.