



Icahn
School of
Medicine at
Mount
Sinai

MOUNT SINAI SERVICES

NYC H+H / Elmhurst

• 79-01 Broadway Elmhurst, N.Y. 11373

April 26, 2023

Dear EBAA Nominating Committee,

I would like to offer my strongest support for the nomination of Maria Soledad Cortina MD to the EBAA Board of Directors. Dr. Cortina is heavily involved with Eversight, serving on the medical advisory board, as well as the research, teaching and education subcommittees. She has been a dedicated and knowledgeable member of the EBAA community since 2015, serving on numerous committees including the accreditation, scientific programs, and medical advisory board. Dr. Cortina was selected for the EBAA Physician Leadership Program in 2015. Since becoming "classmates" with her during that program, I have personally seen what an effective and collaborative colleague she makes.

Dr. Cortina is a nationally and internationally recognized clinician, researcher, and educator, as evidenced by her numerous roles including Director of the Cornea Fellowship at the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, where she is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology. She is also the Director of the Comprehensive Ophthalmology Faculty Practice, and the Artificial Cornea Program.

She serves on the editorial board of numerous journals, and is an associate editor for *Eye and Contact Lens* and *Frontiers in Ophthalmology*. Dr. Cortina has trained close to 40 cornea fellows, many of whom are leaders in their community (national and international), including the EBAA community.

With her broad and diverse experience, Dr. Cortina can offer expert insights with a fresh perspective. She can both lead and work as a team player. Dr. Cortina has distinct qualities that will contribute to the EBAA Board's ability to function at its highest level. She is a role model of a physician-scholar-educator who will uphold the ethics and mission of the EBAA, and enhance the way in which objectives are executed.

Respectfully,

Michelle K. Rhee MD

Medical Director, The Eye-Bank for Sight Restoration

Associate Clinical Professor, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai