

May 1, 2023

Eye Bank Association of America  
1101 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear EBAA members,

As a cornea specialist and the Interim Chair at the Kellogg Eye Center, I am writing to support Dr. M. Soledad Cortina as a candidate for the At-Large EBAA Board of Directors position.

Dr. Cortina received her medical degree at joined the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary as a board-certified ophthalmologist and cornea specialist in 2010. Her clinical interests are in corneal transplantation, refractive surgery, cataracts, and anterior segment disease. Currently, she is an attending physician in the Cornea Service, the Director of the Comprehensive Ophthalmology Faculty Practice, the General Eye Clinic, and the Keratoprosthesis Artificial Cornea Program at University of Illinois – Chicago Health. She conducts basic science investigations into the regeneration of corneal nerves following corneal and refractive surgery.

Dr. Cortina has been a member of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology, the Eye Bank Association of America, the Cornea Society, Women in Ophthalmology, and the Illinois Society of Eye and Physician Surgeons. As part of Dr. Cortina's work with EBAA eye bank and Medical Advisory Board, she is well-versed in medical standards and FDA regulation. She has developed a broad perspective of the needs in the field of eye banking while devoting over 8 years to eye banking as a UIC Health Medical Director and EBAA committees. She attended the Young Physicians program in 2014 and has stayed involved with EBAA since then. She has been a part of accreditation since 2015, the scientific committee since 2016, the MAB since 2021, and the MAB long term preservation sub-committee since 2022. Most recently, Dr. Cortina joined the AAO eye banking committee.

Dr. Cortina's is known internationally for her research in corneal surgery and the keratoprosthesis, has presented at meetings and symposia around the world. She has over 80 publications in peer-reviewed journals such as *Cornea* (December 2022), *Eye & Contact Lens* (May 2021), and *The Ocular Surface* (April 2021). She is an associate editor for *Eye & Contact Lens* and *Frontiers in Ophthalmology* journals and on the editorial board for the *Journal of Ocular Surface* and *Cornea Open*. Conversely, she has annually received the 'Best Doctors in America' recognition since 2010.

The EBAA Board of Directors position is the next logical step in Dr. Cortina's progression as a phenomenal leader in eye banking. She has the knowledge and respect for the mission, vision, and values the EBAA plays in the restoration of sight worldwide through advancing knowledge, corneal donation, and innovation.

As a cornea surgeon and eye bank medical director, Dr. Cortina is keenly aware of the challenges ahead which highlights how much of an asset she will be to the EBAA as a board member. Thus, I highly recommend Dr. Cortina as the At-Large EBAA Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shahzad I. Mian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Shahzad I. Mian, M.D.  
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Professor, Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences  
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