

March 5, 2024

EBAA Board of Directors
EBAA House of Delegates and voting members

To whom it may concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this strong letter of recommendation for Dr. Michelle Rhee for the position of Member at Large to the Eye Bank Association of America Board of Directors. I have known Dr. Rhee for over a decade now, and we have shared in many activities and committees within the EBAA. I feel I know her well both professionally and personally and can speak to her qualifications to fill this role successfully.

Dr. Rhee is an Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Rhee has been involved in eye banking since early stages in her career after completing the EBAA leadership program in 2015. She later also served as faculty member for this same program. She has served as medical director for The Eye-Bank for Eye Restoration since 2014. She was also selected by the EBAA for the AAO Leadership Development Program which she completed in 2016-2017. She has served in several committees within the EBAA including Co-chairing the Accreditation Board and serving in the Medical Advisory Board. Dr. Rhee also serves as a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Eye Banking. Her dedication to our profession and the association have been unwavering and her contributions have undoubtedly made a significant impact.

I think that Dr. Rhee is an outstanding candidate to for the EBBA Board of Directors, her strong sense of ethics, her passion for our field of cornea and eye banking, her forward thinking and strong commitment to advance our field are among her best strengths. Her experience as a cornea surgeon in different environments including academic medicine and educator, private practice, eye banking, and industry, significantly enriches and widens the lens with which she views not only the future of our profession but also the current issues that need to be addressed. Dr. Rhee understands eye banking today and the challenges ahead and I believe she will be an important voice that represent us all in the Board.

I encourage you to strongly consider her candidacy, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or should you wish to discuss her qualifications further. Dr. Rhee will be a tremendous addition to the Board and I support her wholeheartedly without reservations.

Sincerely,

M. Soledad Cortina

Soledad Cortina, MD
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