Nominee Statement: Ahmed Trabelsi

# Position: IAPB Group C Trustee

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| **Nominee Job Title** | | | | |
|  | | | Vice President, Eye Health | |
| **Nominee Organisation** | | | | |
|  | | | Chairman | |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** | | | | |
|  | King Khalid Eye Specialist Hospital | | | |
| **Represented by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Abdulaziz Ibrahim Al Rajhi |
| **Seconded by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Muhammad Babar Qureshi |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** | | | | |
|  | | CBM | | |
| **Seconding Statement** | | | | |
|  | | We are pleased to nominate Dr Ahmed Trabelsi as a board member on the IAPB Board. His exceptional experience, career achievements and dedication to IAPB as Co-Chairman EMR and Board member of the IAPB in the past, is a testimony of his commitment.  Dr. Ahmed Trabelsi graduated from Faculty of Medicine Alexandria, Egypt and completed the Ophthalmology degree at the University of London. From January 1977 he became Assistant Professor at the Institute of Ophthalmology of Tunis. In the following years Dr Trabelsi was the Director of retina Unit in the Institute of Ophthalmology Tunis (1981) and Director of the Low Vision Aid Clinic in the Institute of Ophthalmology Tunis. From February to July 1987, he completed a Post-graduate training in Retina, Emory Eye hospital, Atlanta, Georgia USA. From 1995 Dr Trabelsi became the Chairman of the Clinique Ophtalmologique de Tunis, the first private Ophthalmic Hospital in North Africa, including all sub-specialties. He is also the Emeritus president of Nadi Al Bassar an NGO working in the field of prevention of blindness.  Dr. Ahmed Trabelsi’s has been recognized and awarded at national, regional and international levels. Some of his awards being: Award offered by His Excellency President of Tunisia Zinelabidine BEN;ALI for International Collaboration, 2005; HRH Prince Abdul-Aziz Ahmed Al Saud Prevention of Blindness Award, International Council of Ophthalmology: G.O.H. Naumann Award for Leadership in Global Eye Care, 2014 and the Vision Excellence Awards 2020 from IAPB.  Dr Ahmed Trabelsi has led Nadi Al Bassar as its president and has spearheaded many outreach programmes to the Middleast and African countries reaching the neediest. He has provided leadership for training in cataract surgery and low vision to many doctors of the developing world.  He has been active in the Middle East African council of ophthalmology leading the prevention of blindness committee and having developed and conducted many sessions on prevention of blindness.  Dr Trabelsi has worked tirelessly towards the Global Eye Care and Universal Eye Health; he has committed his life to ensuring that eye care reaches everyone and empowers people who he meets.  He has a lot to contribute, and we feel a person with his caliber, standing and distinguished career will make an outstanding trustee with a lot of input the board can utilize. | | |
| **Nominee Statement** | | | | |
|  | I, Dr. Ahmed Trabelsi, am proud to stand for a second 4-year term on the IAPB Board of Trustees. I am President Emeritus of IAPB member agency Nadi Al Bassar (North African Center for Sight and Visual Sciences) in Tunisia which provides eye care services and training throughout the Middle East and Africa with a special focus on Francophone and Lusophone Africa. I also am Chairman of Clinique Ophtalmologique de Tunis, a multi-specialty ophthalmic hospital. As a retina specialist who introduced low-vision services in the Middle East, I am deeply concerned about preventing blindness due to diabetic eye disease in the  region.  I have been active within IAPB for over 30 years and have participated in nearly all of the former IAPB Partnership Committee and now Council of Members meetings as well as the General Assemblies, and have been privileged to serve on IAPB’s Board of Trustees. I wish to continue serving on the Board to take forward the agenda of universal eye health in the context of the SDG’s, and to consolidate the voice of smaller NGO member agencies.  Dedicated to improving vision health in Maghrebian countries, Nadi Al Bassar is strengthening regional tertiary and secondary education and training centers such as the Institut d'OphtalmologieTropicale de l'Afrique (IOTA) in Bamako, Mali, and the Diplôme d’Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées d’Ophtalmologie (DESSO) based in Donka, Conakry, Guinea. We support fundraising efforts to benefit South-South cooperation and have played a major role in establishing blindness prevention programs in Tunisia and other countries of the region.  A major achievement is the establishment programs for human resources for eye health in 11 Francophone African countries, a major objective of IAPB. We collaborate with societies to increase Francophone membership, offer scientific programs in French, and provide additional French-language resources to these countries and to AAO and ICO.  I am an active member of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the Royal College of Ophthalmology, past president of the International Society of Geographic and Epidemiologic Ophthalmology, co-chair of the Eastern Mediterranean Region of IAPB, and Vice President of the Italian Task Force of Low Vision.  I ask for your vote and will be proud to continue my service as an IAPB Trustee. | | | |