Nominee Statement: Fatima Kyari

# Position: IAPB Board Group C Trustee

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| **Nominee Job Title** |
|   | Fellow |
| **Nominee Organisation** |
|   | International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH), LSHTM |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** |
|  | ICEH |
| **Represented by:** |
|   | Dr. Matthew Burton |
| **Seconded by:** |
|   | Dr. Andrew Bastawrous |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** |
|   | Peek Vision |
| **Seconding Statement** |
|   | Fatima has a rare combination of skills and experience which make her an excellent leader in eye health covering clinical, public health research and advocacy.   As a **clinician** with medical and surgical experience as well as sub-speciality skills in Glaucoma, Fatima has the skills to make informed, patient-centred decisions including using evidence based interventions at a grass roots level.   As a **public health researcher** Fatima has developed the key skills and know-how to assess population-level eye health needs and barriers and to develop clearly articulated problem statements and hypothesis to solve them.  As an **advocate**, Fatima has been able to combine her clinical and public health understanding to represent those in need of eye health services with those in positions of authority and influence who make decisions on resourcing and policy.   I have had the pleasure to study and work with Fatima for a decade. I have observed from close by Fatima’s perseverance and dedication to research as she undertook a PhD with prolonged periods away from home and in more recent years Fatima has been able to translate her experiences to new platforms including writing several key policy and strategy documents and regularly being a facilitator between stakeholders to drive forward universal eye health coverage.   West Africa carries a major proportion of vision loss in Africa and globally and having representation from West Africa at the IAPB leadership level from someone with experience and knowledge that spans disciplines will be vital to shaping the post-VISION 2020 agenda.   |
| **Nominee Statement** |
|   | The work I do gives me a broad range of expertise and experience – I practice clinical ophthalmology as a consultant in the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Abuja, Nigeria. In my academic role at the College of Health Sciences, University of Abuja and as Associate Professor at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), I am active in capacity development – training medical students, teaching and supervising dissertations for residents in ophthalmology and MSc students. I have a strong public health background training largely driven by my academic study (MSc and PhD) at LSHTM and pinned by my active population-based research. My [doctoral research](https://researchonline.lshtm.ac.uk/id/eprint/3928336/) which was sponsored by the Fred Hollows Foundation, focused on public health and glaucoma, providing relevant data being used to support effective planning, clinical capacity development, resourcing and implementation of services for glaucoma care across Nigeria and Africa.   I have applied academic knowledge beyond academia and have contributed to policy and strategy forums. Some involvement in this regard include:  * Lead author of the Commonwealth policy brief on “A sustainable approach to control avoidable blindness and vision loss,” and the Commonwealth review of “A Vision for the Commonwealth 2021;”
* Editorial committee member of the WHO’s “World Report on Vision”
* Lead consultant/author for the “Nigeria National Eye Health Policy”
* Lead and coordinating author of “A toolkit for glaucoma management in Africa.”
* Co-author of “The Lancet Commission on Global Eye Health” 2021
* Newly involved as a member of the Programme Expert Committee of the Vision Catalyst Fund

 I have a formal engagement with Light for the World in developing their glaucoma programmes in 3 countries and a collaborative link with the Sightsavers Allergan KeepSight programme in Nigeria.   My voluntary engagement with IAPB includes organising the Vision2020 links West Africa workshops in 2011 and 2012, as co-Chair Anglophone West Africa since 2015 and member of the IAPB gender equity working group.   I have been a board member and director, since 2008, at [Total Health Trust (THT), a member of the Liberty Group](https://www.libertyhealth.net/nigeria/en/) (South Africa), a leading health insurance and HMO in Nigeria. I review financial and operational performance, and regulatory compliance; approve strategies, work plans and budgets, etc.  These experiences demonstrate my ability to work as a leading team member in strategy, practice and policy across disciplines. I have a strong network to feed ideas and experience up to the IAPB Board level, for which I am well-suited for.   |