Nominee Statement: Nick Kourgialis

# Position: IAPB Group C Trustee

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| **Nominee Job Title** | | | | |
|  | | | Vice President, Eye Health | |
| **Nominee Organisation** | | | | |
|  | | | Helen Keller International | |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** | | | | |
|  | Helen Keller International | | | |
| **Represented by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Kathy Spahn |
| **Seconded by:** | | | | |
|  | | | | Job Heintz |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** | | | | |
|  | | Himalayan Cataract Project | | |
| **Seconding Statement** | | | | |
|  | | It is my pleasure to second the nomination of Nick Kourgialis as a IAPB Board of Trustee Representative for Group C.   Nick has consistently demonstrated his commitment to the mission and goals of IAPB during the many years that I have known him and I believe that he would be a welcome addition to the IAPB Board of Trustees.   Nick clearly recognizes the importance of collaboration and partnership in achieving common goals and I expect that he will bring this same commitment to consensus building and cooperative planning if elected.   During his tenure as Chair of the IAPB Diabetic Retinopathy Working Group, Nick worked with other IAPB member organizations to raise awareness regarding this increasing cause of avoidable blindness and to support the development of tools and the identification of best practices to prevent, identify and treat DR. During his 18 years at Helen Keller International , and through his support of a wide range of blindness prevention programming in Africa, Asia and North America, Nick has gained a broad based understanding of the challenges we face in establishing accessible, affordable, high quality eye care services in a variety of settings. I believe Nick’s mix of knowledge, experience and spirit of collegiality will be a valuable addition to the Board. | | |
| **Nominee Statement** | | | | |
|  | My name is Nick Kourgialis, and I have been Vice President of Eye Health Programs at Helen Keller International for nearly two decades. Throughout this time, I have been very engaged in the international eye health community and in the work of IAPB. With our organization’s CEO stepping down from the IAPB Board, I am writing to express my desire to serve as a Group C representative. I have supported the mission and goals of IAPB through my role at Helen Keller International, by advocating for and assisting my colleagues to establish effective, innovative blindness prevention programs, and by consistently pursuing opportunities for collaboration with other IAPB members and the achievement of shared objectives. I have also co-created, led and served on various IAPB working groups and committees. Most notably, I helped to establish (in partnership with the Fred Hollows Foundation) IAPB’s Diabetic Retinopathy Working Group and served as Chair during its initial two years, and subsequently as co-chair until 2019.  Helen Keller implements programs that prevent or treat a broad range of eye health disorders ranging from infectious causes of blindness like onchocerciasis and trachoma to more clinically focused programs addressing cataract, refractive error, diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity. I have had the privilege of supporting eye health programming in Africa, Asia and in North America. I believe my involvement in addressing a broad range of eye health disorders across regions, including the unique challenges encountered in high income countries like the US where inequitable access to health care persists, would permit me to effectively represent the diverse range of member organizations and interests in Group C. I believe that my collaborative workstyle and deep belief in partnership as the best way to achieve our shared goals, would add value to board discussions.  This is clearly a critical period for IAPB as its members look beyond 2020 and seek to build upon their important achievements to date. The recent publication of the WHO’s World Report on Vision and the Lancet Global Commission Report have helped to raise the visibility of eye health and can serve as a catalyst for increased investment and innovation. I look forward to supporting these efforts if elected as a Group C representative to the Board. | | | |