Nominee Statement: Rohit Khanna

# Position: IAPB South East Asia Regional Chair

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| **Nomination For the position:** | |
|  | Regional Chair |
| **Region** | |
|  | South East Asia |
| **Nominee Name** | |
|  | Rohit C Khanna |
| **Nominee Job Title** | |
|  | Associate Director |
| **Nominee Organisation** | |
|  | L V Prasad Eye Institute |
| **Nominating IAPB member organisation** | |
|  | L V Prasad Eye Institute |
| **Represented by:** | |
|  | Gullapalli N Rao |
| **Seconded by:** | |
|  | Thulasiraj Ravilla |
| **Seconding IAPB member organisation:** | |
|  | Aravind Eye Care System |
| **Seconding Statement** | |
|  | I have known Dr. Rohit Khanna for over 15 years. He is a rare combination of being a clinician with a strong public health perspective. He has good academic grounding in both these disciplines from the best of institutions in the world - L V Prasad Eye Institute, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Johns Hopkins University. He also stands out as an ardent practitioner of both disciplines. My interaction with Rohit has been entirely in the community eye health domain.  He was part of our team in 2008, when we were invited by the Government of Rwanda and the NGO “Right to Sight”, to develop their five-year plan. Since then I’ve interacted with him on several such platforms.  International Centre for Advancement of Rural Eye care (ICARE) is the Community Eye Health arm of LV Prasad Eye Institute. As its head, he has had the opportunity to work extensively in the South East Asia Region (SEAR). His work involved capacity building of hospitals, including evaluation of countrywide eye care programs, training – both clinical and in community eye health and extensive research. This work has exposed him to all countries in the region and has also had the opportunity to interact with the eye care leaders in those countries. The Community Eye Health work has taken him to several other countries beyond the SEAR. Within LV Prasad Eye Institute, he and his team provide stewardship to the vast network of 200+ Vision Centres and 20+ secondary eye hospitals. This has given him practical hands-on expertise of programmatically managing care delivery or the execution skills. Apart from this, he is extensively involved with working with IAPB as well as WHO in SEAR as well as in other regions. Some of his recent work with WHO includes his involvement in ‘World Report on Vision’ as well as being part of the WHO Technical Advisory Group for the ‘Package of Eye Care Interventions This combination of knowing the South East Asia Region and the national level eye care leadership as well as programmatic and execution capabilities, makes Dr. Rohit Khanna a very desirable candidate for the position of Regional Chair. I have great pleasure in seconding him to this role. |
| **Nominee Statement** | |
| I have completed Residency in ophthalmology from India and Fellowship at L V Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI). I am also a Masters graduate in Community Eye Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a Masters in Public Health from The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.   I am associated with LVPEI for past 18 years and presently I am working as Associate Director at LVPEI and also part of LVPEI leadership team. I am also on Board of Trustee for IAPB. As part of capacity building program, we have done capacity building for more than 200 hospitals, both in India as well as internationally. I am involved with IAPB and WHO in various capacity some of which are listed below. 1. Presently on Board of Trustee as well as member for various working groups at IAPB.  2. Was part of Programme Committee for 10th IAPB General Assembly held in Durban.  3. Coordinated IAPB Council of Members (CoM) meeting in 2018 in Hyderabad. 4. Closely working with WHO for past decade, as part of WHO collaborating centre  5. Member of WHO Technical Advisory Group for the ‘Package of Eye Care Interventions’  6. Invited as Expert in various WHO meetings, including participation in World Report on Vision consultation meetings   Apart from this, I am the Course Convenor for Community Eye Health module at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). In research, I am involved with outcomes of different interventions as well as Geriatric and Child Eye Health and have published more than 150 papers in peer reviewed journals. As a Principal Investigator, I have led multiple studies, including the cohort of Andhra Pradesh Eye Disease Study (APEDS) which had changed several policies in the country. I am also part of Vision Loss Expert Group (VLEG) as well as Asian Eye and Epidemiology Consortium (AEEC). Apart from this, I am on the Editorial Board of several journals too.   My current vision as IAPB Regional Chair S-E Asia, if elected are:  1. Drive the IAPB and WHO agenda achieving ‘Universal Health Coverage’ with all stakeholders in the region 2. Work with countries in the region to develop country specific plans for next decade 3. Explore various funding opportunities in the region  4. Work on Human Resource Development for the countries in the region, especially for the Allied Ophthalmic Personnel.  5. Explore new membership opportunities within the region | |