

I, Dr. Ahmed Trabelsi, wish to stand for election to the IAPB Board of Trustees for the term 2016-2020. I am President 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 Africa. I also am Chairman of Clinique Ophtalmologique de Tunis, a multi-specialty ophthalmic practice. As a retina specialist who introduced low-vision services in the Middle East, I am deeply concerned about the emerging threat of diabetic blindness in the region. I have been active within IAPB for approximately 30 years and have participated in all of the former IAPB Partnership Committee and now Council of Members meetings as well as the General Assemblies, and have served on the Board these past two years since seats were made available to Group C members in 2014. I wish to continue serving on the Board to take forward the agenda of universal eye health in the context of the SDGs, and to consolidate the voice of smaller NGO member agencies.

Dedicated to improving vision health in Maghrebian countries, Nadi Al Bassar is strengthening regional education and training centers such as the Institut d'OphtalmologieTropicale de l'Afrique (IOTA) in Bamako, Mali, and the Diplôme de Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées de Ophtalmologie (DESSO) based in Donka, Conakry. We support Prevention of Blindness fundraising efforts to benefit South-to-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 of human resource development programs 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 the 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 the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness, and Vice President of the Italian Task Force of Low Vision. Member of the advisory board (international council of ophthalmology).

If re-elected, I will be proud to serve as a Trustee of IAPB and will be pleased to support IAPB's efforts to increase human resources for eye care.

Ahmed Trabelsi