



# BLIND FOUNDATION FOR INDIA

Founded in 1989 • President: Dr. Manu Vora

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## To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Blind Foundation for India (BFI), I would like to send this letter of support for **Dr. K. V. Ravishankar** and **Dr. Uma Ravishankar** for their nomination for an **Humanitarian Award by ASCRS**.

They both have consistently worked in the field of avoidable Blindness since more than two decades. Extensive volunteering in India where there is a great need - operating over 25,000 surgical cases entirely at no cost to patients on a Pro Bono basis in the process screened more than **3,50,000 people** for various eye related ailments through over 1,500 outreaches.

They have screened more than **2,75,000 children** in school going age group( through over 500 outreaches , providing Glasses to needy for over 8,000 children and having operated over 1,000 needy children in 2 decades. In addition, they have received large number of Eye surgeons to work as volunteers side-by-side in Indian Hospital at Mysore from Germany, USA, Canada, etc. over two decades.

Dr. K. V. Ravishankar has volunteered overseas over **21 times in last 20 years** in Nepal, Bangladesh, Honduras, The Gambia, Zambia , Kenya, Nigeria, etc. and most of the time engaging a group of eye surgeons and leading from front. In these places providing eye surgical services where need has been great and assisting in capacity building and teaching. All international volunteering has been 2 - 4 week duration most of the time and **entirely Pro Bono**.

Functioning as a **Technical Advisor to The Rotary Foundation, Evanston, IL, USA** from 2002-03 and have assisted The Rotary Foundation to evaluate and do good projects in the field of Eye care in Nigeria, Kenya, South Asia.

They have received accolades within India from Rotary Clubs and Lions Clubs. Dr. Uma Ravishankar was recognized as **INTERNATIONAL EYE HEALTH HERO** by IAPB in 2017.

With consistency of their efforts and serving beyond the call of duty by volunteering they both are most deserving candidates to receive **Humanitarian Award from ASCRS**.

Thanks.

Yours sincerely,

Manu K. Vora

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