

November 11, 2023

To: Rotary International

Re: Dr. K V Ravishankar (nominee for Champions of Impact award)

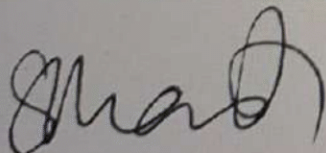
Dear Sir or Madam,

I write this letter to convey my strongest possible support of the candidature of Dr. Ravishankar for the above-mentioned award. I am Professor of Ophthalmology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago. I have followed Dr. Ravishankar's work for over three decades & had the opportunity to personally see their work & operate with them at their Usha Kiran Eye Hospital (UKEH) on multiple occasions. I hence feel well qualified to write this letter.

Serving the underserved has been an enduring commitment that Dr. Ravishankar & his wife Dr. Uma have demonstrated over their entire career. Unlike most surgeons who focus solely on establishing their practice for large parts of their career, Dr Ravi prioritized community-related work as an integral facet right from the start. He also committed to provide these patients a level of care similar to their other patients. This approach has had an exponential impact with increasing community awareness of treatment available to needy patients as well as increased participation of nongovernmental organizations wanting to partner in this endeavor.

An important focus of UKEH efforts over the past 15+ years has been Children's eye health. This is a particularly underserved area. It is also truly impactful because of the long duration of implications from any suboptimal eye health. The UKEH team has conducted screening for over hundred-thousand children. They have also performed complex pediatric eye surgeries in several thousand children that had pathology requiring surgical care. It is admirable that these doctors have established a system for addressing this dire need in children & do this pro bono!

In summary, Dr Ravi and his wife Uma have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to serving the underserved strata of society for several decades. The improvement in eye health of children and adults from their work has a ripple effect by significantly elevating the quality of life these patients lead while also benefiting their community by empowering them to be useful citizens. I hence think they are highly deserving of the Rotary Champions of Impact award.



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