



**cure  
blindness**

*Himalayan Cataract Project*

## VOLUNTEER OPHTHALMOLOGIST PROGRAM

### *Opportunities, Qualifications and Guidelines*

The Himalayan Cataract Project (HCP) seeks fully-licensed, board-certified ophthalmologists to serve as volunteers in support of our efforts to eradicate preventable and treatable blindness. While we value the skills of other medical personnel and we appreciate the interest of all volunteers, we are unable to accept and place non-ophthalmologist volunteers at this time.

A committee reviews volunteer applications on a quarterly basis, and HCP will strive to match your desire and background with the needs of our programs. Nevertheless, given the constraints of international funding and travel, we regret that not all requests can be approved. Once you submit your application, HCP will acknowledge via email that it has been received.

Thank you in advance for your interest in the Himalayan Cataract project and your dedication to global eye care.

## TYPES OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### *Overseas Trainer and hosting International Observers*

HCP Volunteer Ophthalmologists address the need for trained eye care professionals by providing hands-on training at partner institutions or by hosting an international trainee at the Volunteer Ophthalmologists' private practice or academic institution.

#### **Overseas Training**

HCP Volunteer Ophthalmologists may provide overseas training, usually for one to two weeks at a time. The Himalayan Cataract Project will match Volunteer Ophthalmologists in accordance with subspecialty skill areas. Typical activities include hands-on training, surgical demonstration, diagnostic consultation, and lectures. Rather than focusing on service delivery, HCP Volunteer Ophthalmologists are dedicated to the exchange of knowledge and skills.

#### **Host an International Observer**

In the International Observer Program, HCP Volunteer Ophthalmologists provide an opportunity for international trainees to observe best practices of sub-specialty care at U.S. academic institutions and/or in private practice settings. The length of training ranges from one week to three months. HCP asks the Volunteer Ophthalmologists in the U.S. to provide accommodations, when possible, for international trainees.

# QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

- *ALL VOLUNTEER OPHTHALMOLOGISTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE FULLY LICENSED, TRAINED, BOARD CERTIFIED, AND PRACTICING FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS POST ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE. SEE PRACTICE GUIDELINES BELOW.*
- *ALL VOLUNTEER OPHTHALMOLOGISTS TRAVELING ABROAD ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL INSURANCE AND EMERGENCY OVERSEES ASSISTANCE COVERAGE, OR COMPARABLE SECURITY AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE INSURANCE COVERAGE.*
- *PREVIOUS TRAVEL EXPERIENCE OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES IS RECOMMENDED*
- *EXPERIENCE AS A SUPERVISOR, MANAGER, TRAINER, TEACHER, OR COACH IS A PLUS*
- *ABILITY TO WORK WITH DIVERSE GROUPS OF PROFESSIONALS*
- *FLEXIBILITY AND ADAPTABILITY*

## PRACTICE GUIDELINES

*Please note: Only ophthalmologists who are currently practicing cataract surgery in the U.S. will be allowed to practice cataract surgery overseas.*

Medical Ophthalmologists	Medical ophthalmologists participate in clinical screening and teaching roles, as well as, lecture residents, fellows, and faculty.
Surgical ophthalmologists <i>with</i> SICS training (SICS training entails mentored instruction on SICS technique in human eyes with a total of > 20 hours operating)  SICS = “small-incision extracapsular cataract surgery”	Those with <i>minor</i> SICS training (<3 weeks SICS hands-on training or <200 surgeries) will be allowed to participate in settings with attending lead physicians only.  Those with <i>major</i> SICS training (>3 weeks hands-on experience or >200 surgeries) may be asked to proctor a surgeon with minor SICS experience and/or work with local surgeons.  Those with <i>major</i> SICS training and subspecialty training, may be asked to split time between SICS training and work on subspecialty skills transfer (surgical, clinical, lecture).
Surgical ophthalmologists <i>without</i> SICS training	Surgical subspecialty trained surgeons (Retina, Cornea, Glaucoma, Advanced Anterior Segment)  • Encouraged to work on subspecialty skills transfer, both clinical and surgical; and ideally will be paired with local physicians with an interest in that subspecialty.  Comprehensive cataract surgeons:  • High Volume (>350 phaco surgeries yearly) surgeons will be encouraged to focus their time on teaching phaco skills. • Low Volume (<350 phaco surgeries yearly) surgeons will be encouraged to

	focus their time on clinical teaching and phaco skills.
Retired or Non-Practicing Physicians in the U.S.	<i>Only surgeons currently practicing cataract surgery in the U.S. will be allowed to practice cataract surgery overseas.</i> Retired or non-practicing physicians in the U.S. are encouraged to impart clinical skills through direct clinical supervision, lectures, and screening roles. Those with major SICS experience may proctor local physicians.
Medical Students and Ophthalmology Residents	In rare instances, medical students and ophthalmology residents can accompany an experienced Volunteer Medical Faculty upon approval by HCP.

## VOLUNTEER EXPENSES

Volunteer Ophthalmologists are expected to pay all of their own expenses, including but not limited to: airfare, lodging, food, visa, and overseas medical licenses. HCP can assist in obtaining the necessary overseas medical licenses in the country of service. Some HCP scholarships may be available to cover a portion of these costs.

### Sample Expenses (approximates)

Airfare	\$ 1,500
Ground transportation	300
Lodging for 2 weeks	700
Food	700
Visa	100
International travel insurance	200
Medical license/fees in service country	<u>1000</u>
	\$ 4,500

HCP can recommend travel agents and hotel accommodations, but Volunteer Ophthalmologists are responsible for making their own arrangements.

## LICENSING

Overseas licensing can take up to two months. Volunteer Ophthalmologists will need to provide certified copies of their U.S. medical credentials to HCP staff to facilitate the licensing process.

## INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

International travel insurance - Volunteer Ophthalmologists must obtain their own international travel insurance and emergency overseas assistance coverage. e.g. International SOS or Global Rescue.

Medical malpractice insurance - Volunteer Ophthalmologists must obtain their own medical malpractice insurance for overseas practice. The Himalayan Cataract Project does not provide any type of medical malpractice insurance. Volunteer Medical Faculty should inquire with their own insurance agent to determine whether their policy covers volunteer overseas service.

Declaration for international travel – Volunteer Ophthalmologists must sign a declaration acknowledging their responsibility to purchase international travel insurance, to purchase medical malpractice insurance, to obtain recommended vaccinations, and to obtain precautionary treatments for any existing medical conditions.

# VOLUNTEER OPHTHALMOLOGIST APPLICATION



## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name:

Date of birth:

Email:

Phone:

Current address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name:

Address:

Phone:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Relationship:

## EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Name of employer or practice:

Employer address:

How long have you been at this employer?

Phone:

E-mail:

Fax:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATION

Institution:

Current title:

How long have you been at this institution?

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Fax:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Academic

Professional

Sub-specialty training

## LANGUAGES

Native Language:

List any additional languages you know and your level of proficiency in each.

## VOLUNTEER AREA OF INTEREST

### Hosting Observers

*Are you interested in hosting an international observer?*

*If so would you be able to arrange housing for the observer?*

### Overseas Training

*If you are interested in overseas training opportunities indicate your available dates here.*

### International Travel Experience

*Please list locations you have traveled to, dates, and the nature of the travel (work, vacation, volunteering etc.)*

### Desired Geographic Location

Nepal

Ethiopia

Ghana

Bhutan

India

Myanmar

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## HEALTH

Existing medical, health, physical or mental conditions.

Allergies

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Is there anything else you wish to let us know about you or your interest?

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

Medical School, Residency and Fellowship Diplomas

Medical License

Current CV

2 Professional recommendations

Volunteer Application, Volunteer Ophthalmologist Declaration, Required Documentation and any supporting materials can be submitted electronically to HCP by emailing them to [Volunteers@cureblindness.org](mailto:Volunteers@cureblindness.org)





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## VOLUNTEER OPHTHALMOLOGIST DECLARATION

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE that I have read the Himalayan Cataract Project's "**Volunteer Ophthalmologist Program: Opportunities, Qualifications & Guidelines**" document.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_.

FURTHERMORE, I acknowledge that it is my sole responsibility to ensure that:

I have adequate and relevant medical malpractice insurance for overseas charity work.

I have adequate and relevant health insurance for international travel.

I will obtain travel insurance for my volunteer activities.

I will receive adequate and timely vaccinations and prophylactic treatment as recommended by the CDC international travel guidelines.

I will obtain adequate and timely precautionary treatments for any existing medical conditions prior to travel and participation in HCP programs.

Name (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_