

Proposal arrangement sponsoring membership of the WAEH for a limited number of eye hospitals in developing countries.

Introduction

This arrangement is about the possibility for a limited number of eye hospitals to get sponsorship from the WAEH to become an associate member for a few years and also get some financial support in the travel cost to join the annual meeting.

This arrangement gives the rules for:

1. Which hospitals can apply for sponsorship
2. What is the content of the sponsorship.
3. The maximum number of eye hospitals that can use this arrangement and the maximum of years the eye hospital gets sponsorship.
4. The procedure and criteria to approve sponsorship.

Why support eye hospitals in developing countries?

Our mission is to promote the exchange of knowledge, the development and implementation of international best practices in the planning, organization and delivery of eye services throughout the world, aiming to improve continuously the experience, care and outcomes of patients with eye disorders.

In our vision we focus on the leading eye hospitals but given our mission there is space for exchanging knowledge also to eye hospitals in developing countries. They can become associate members but sometimes the financial barrier for that is too high and joining the annual meeting has also the hurdle of the cost of travel. By helping these hospitals with our knowledge, we can bring them on a higher level and going forward this also could lead to becoming an associate member. In this way we not only helping those hospitals, but we also grow the WAEH as a real world organization. In this arrangement we have written down the content of the arrangement, the procedure to get approval and the criteria for approval.

Eye hospitals from developing countries can apply but only if they already have a relation with one of the existing members and if they have a plan how to become a self-paying associate member after the years of sponsoring.

What is the content of the sponsorship?

The WAEH pays for a maximum of 3 years the membership fee of € 1.500 for the sponsored member. In addition, we offer a maximum budget of € 1.000 for travel cost for the sponsored member for one participant from the sponsored member.

Next to this financial support, the support to this sponsored hospital is coordinated by the mentor hospital. So there is no direct support delivered by the WAEH. When the mentor hospital thinks that members of the WAEH could help, the mentor hospital will make a request to the board.

The maximum period and maximum number of sponsored hospitals.

The maximum period of sponsoring is 3 years, the assumption is that the sponsored hospital gets support from the mentor hospital and can grow their capacity in 3 years in such a way that they can afford to become an associate member on their own cost.

Given the budget of € 10.000 a year we can give this sponsorship to 4 hospitals. In 2018 we started with one, the Kisii eye hospital from Kenya with Kellogg as the mentor hospital. If we can support one more in 2018 and another one in 2019 and in 2020 then we have in 2020 a group of 4 hospitals were the first two can be replaced by another two in 2021.

The budget for this will grow from € 5.000 in 2018 to € 10.000 in 2020. This takes a certain reshuffling of the existing budget but that is doable.

The procedure to decide on the sponsorship.

The candidate for the sponsorship can only apply through a member. In this arrangement we call that the mentor member. This means there should already be a relation with an existing member. This means that there is no possibility for an eye hospital from developing countries to apply on their own.

The mentor members have to do the application, of course in cooperation with the potential sponsored hospital. The application has to explain why the member thinks this hospital should be sponsored. The application also has to contain a plan that explains the steps taken to make the sponsored hospital capable to become an associate member in 3 years' time.

The board decides, based on the application, on the sponsoring according to this arrangement.

The procedure with the mentor member is important because in that way the WAEH knows that the sponsored hospital gets a broader support (from the mentor hospital) then just this sponsorship of the membership fee and some travel cost.

All sponsored hospitals should present an example of the support of the mentor hospital on the annual meeting to promote that more members think about becoming a mentor and go for this kind of relationship with an eye hospital in developing countries.

The member should bring a proposal to the board to sponsor a certain eye hospital. In this proposal the member explains why this hospital should be supported. Explains the already existing relationship and also explains why the member thinks the sponsored eye hospital can become an associate member on their own cost in 3 years' time.

Wim Oosterom, October 26, 2018.