

3 October 2018

Dear VIS Electoral Committee,

My name is Regine Ahner and I'm writing to you about the upcoming vacancy on the Vienna International School's Board of Governors. Please accept this letter as an expression of my interest in serving the VIS community through a seat on its board.

I am a native Austrian, born in Vienna. After graduating from medical school, I was trained as an Obstetrician-Gynaecologist at the university hospital in Vienna. In Boston I received a Masters degree in Public Health at Harvard University.

Already during my early professional years I was intrigued by the cultural differences influencing the practice of my profession, which subsequently brought me to various countries around the globe. At research hospitals in Boston and New York I helped to create systems that ensured knowledge was shared between departments and teams and passed on to new generations. In clinical settings from India to Uruguay, I added to institutional integrity by empowering individuals with new skills and know-how. As a consultant for the the World Bank in India I was able to combine my knowledge in medicine as well as in public health. In 2003 my husband and I decided to move back to Vienna, where I became an Associate Professor in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the University of Vienna and opened up a private medical practice.

In 2015 my son joined the VIS in grade six. Ever since the VIS community has become an important part of my family's life. First, through the support from our buddy family, then more and more through the PTA's activities. This led to our advocacy campaign last year to create guidelines to ensure the "digital health and safety" of our children in the school environment — A topic I feel very passionate about, both as a mother and a physician.

Through my activities at school, my network within the VIS community increased and I was able to gain more insight into the wishes and needs of the community. I recognise the daunting administrative efforts that go into supporting the VIS's inclusive learning environment, particularly as the school upgrades its infrastructure amidst financial challenges. I am convinced that with my experiences as a physician, a teacher and an administrator I will be able to help the VIS community navigate a rapidly changing educational landscape.

My life has been predicated on making communities stronger. In my duties as medical expert and program manager, I have to assure the excellency of service provided in term of medical competencies, financial viability and feasibility while remaining accessible to target population in severe need of health services. Being a native Austrian, I not only speak the country's language, but I am also familiar with its bureaucratic challenges . I will be always reachable and open to discussing how we can prudently steward the Vienna International School .

Sincerely,

Regine Ahner

