

April 27, 2026

The Heed Ophthalmic Foundation
c/o Shirley Chan
655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

RE: Victor Sanchez, MD, Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Resident Retreat Nominee

As Department Chair (EA) and Ophthalmology Residency Program Director (CRA) of the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, it is our privilege to present Victor Sanchez, MD, a PGY 2 ophthalmology resident, as an **absolutely outstanding** candidate to represent Bascom Palmer at the Heed Resident Retreat. Dr. Sanchez is, quite simply, one of the most sensational young residents with whom we have had the opportunity to work. He has already distinguished himself as a superb clinician, a remarkably mature thinker, a deeply compassionate physician, and a future leader in academic ophthalmology.

Dr. Sanchez graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics, where he earned several major honors including Phi Beta Kappa, the University of Florida Honors Medallion, Florida Blue Key, and recognition as an Anderson Scholar. He went on to New York University Grossman School of Medicine, where he continued to excel academically and professionally. He was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha, served as Vice President of AOA, received Community Service Distinction, and was awarded the NYU Department of Ophthalmology Lynne and Jack Dodick Prize in Ophthalmology. Even before residency, Victor had already demonstrated the rare combination of intellect, curiosity, discipline, and service orientation that marks the very best future academicians.

Victor's scholarly record is extraordinary for this stage of training. His academic work began as an undergraduate, where he helped pilot a smartphone based ophthalmoscopy program to improve glaucoma screening in underserved populations. During medical school, he contributed to research in glaucoma cost effectiveness, smartphone based visual acuity testing, ocular surface disease, diabetic retinopathy follow up, and medical student education. His work with Dr. Anat Galor on ocular surface disease in veteran populations led to multiple peer reviewed publications and national presentations, including ARVO recognition. At NYU, he worked with Dr. Lama Al-Aswad on cost effectiveness research in glaucoma interventions, and with Dr. Christina Prescott on cataract simulation education for medical students. He also served as Research Chair for the Latino Medical Student Association Northeast Regional Conference, helping organize a research symposium for more than 300 undergraduate and medical students, reviewing 150 abstracts, recruiting faculty judges, and supporting the next generation of trainees in scholarly work.

Since arriving at Bascom Palmer, Dr. Sanchez has continued to build on this exceptional foundation. He has sought out mentors in our Department of Retina and Vitreous Diseases, including Drs. Basil Williams, Nicolas Yannuzzi, and Harry Flynn, and is already working on projects using large scale databases such as Epic Cosmos and TriNetX to study socioeconomic drivers of diabetic retinopathy outcomes, population level trends in

endophthalmitis, and risk factors for retinal tear progression. This work reflects the best kind of academic instinct: Victor does not pursue research simply to produce manuscripts. He asks questions because he wants to better understand disease, improve care, and serve patients who too often present with advanced illness after facing barriers to access.

As a resident, Dr. Sanchez has been nothing short of a **SUPER STAR**. Faculty evaluations of Victor are consistently remarkable, particularly in the care of emergency room patients. Bascom Palmer's emergency service is among the busiest and most complex ophthalmic emergency environments in the country, and Victor has thrived in this setting with unusual poise for his level of training. He performs an excellent clinical examination efficiently, accurately, and independently. More importantly, he has the rare ability to synthesize subtle findings, develop a sophisticated differential diagnosis, and formulate thoughtful treatment plans for complex ophthalmic emergency patients. Many residents can learn to gather data; Victor already understands how to interpret it. He has the clinical instincts, judgment, calmness, and intellectual honesty of someone far more advanced in training. He knows when to act independently, when to ask for guidance, and how to advocate for patients with urgency and compassion. In the emergency room, where speed, accuracy, empathy, and judgment all matter, Victor is simply exceptional.

His procedural experience is equally impressive. As of January 14, 2026, after only approximately six months of PGY 2 ophthalmology residency training, Victor had already logged 141 panretinal photocoagulation cases and 217 intravitreal injections. These are truly remarkable numbers at this early point in training. He has also logged meaningful early experience with eyelid lacerations, globe trauma, laser iridotomy, YAG capsulotomy, and pterygium/conjunctival and other corneal procedures. These numbers reflect more than volume. They reflect trust. Faculty trust Victor because he is prepared, careful, technically capable, and deeply invested in doing things well.

Dr. Sanchez has also distinguished himself through his presentations at Bascom Palmer Grand Rounds. He recently delivered an outstanding presentation on a patient with a one day history of decreased vision in the left eye due to large choroidal effusions from central serous chorioretinopathy. His talk was polished, thoughtful, beautifully organized, and clinically sophisticated, with the kind of case-based reasoning that engages both residents and seasoned faculty. The presentation can be viewed here: <https://bascompalmerlearn.org/course/view.php?id=2102>. It is another example of Victor's ability to take a complex clinical problem, organize it clearly, and teach others at a very high level.

In summary, Dr. Victor Sanchez is one of the most impressive residents we have recruited to Bascom Palmer. He possesses unlimited potential. He is brilliant without arrogance, clinically gifted without complacency, scholarly without losing sight of patients, and ambitious in the very best sense of the word. He has the work ethic, emotional intelligence, curiosity, humility, and academic drive to become a major figure in ophthalmology. The Heed Resident Retreat is designed for residents exactly like Victor: individuals with extraordinary promise who, with the right mentorship and exposure, will help shape the future of academic medicine. We cannot imagine a more deserving representative from Bascom Palmer.

Please do not hesitate to contact either of us should you need any further information about this truly remarkable young physician.

***If two residents are selected from our program, we would be delighted to sponsor the second resident's attendance at this formative and extremely valuable Heed Resident Retreat. ***

Sincerely,

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