



April 6, 2026

**Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Selection Committee**

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

We are writing to offer our strongest recommendation for **Dr. Bing X. Ross, MD, PhD**, a PGY-3 ophthalmology resident at Kresge Eye Institute, for participation in the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat. As Chairman and Program Director, we have had the privilege of closely observing Dr. Ross's development and can confidently state that she represents the very best of the physician-scientist pipeline in academic ophthalmology.

Dr. Ross brings a uniquely rigorous and sustained commitment to vision science that distinguishes her among her peers nationally. Her training pathway—from medical school and Master's work in China to a PhD at Wayne State University, followed by a highly productive postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan—reflects both depth and continuity of purpose. Importantly, she has not only participated in research environments but has consistently driven them forward through intellectual leadership and scientific initiative.

During her doctoral training, Dr. Ross made important contributions to our understanding of innate immune regulation in infectious keratitis, identifying a novel pathogenic role for IL-24 in modulating mucosal immunity. She subsequently expanded this work during her postdoctoral fellowship, where she independently developed a line of investigation into immune-mediated photoreceptor degeneration following retinal detachment. Her identification of HMGB1 as a key damage-associated signaling molecule, along with her work demonstrating protective roles for HMGB1 and HIF-1 $\alpha$  in photoreceptor survival, helped establish a new conceptual framework in retinal injury biology. Notably, this work contributed to successful NIH R01 funding—an uncommon accomplishment that underscores both the significance of the science and Dr. Ross's ability to lead collaborative, hypothesis-driven research.

What is particularly impressive is her ability to sustain this level of scholarly productivity while excelling in clinical training. Since entering residency, Dr. Ross has continued to publish across a broad range of translational and clinical topics, including intraocular lens pathology, uveitis care delivery, retinal endothelial metabolism, and proliferative vitreoretinopathy (PVR). Her current work leveraging spatial transcriptomics to study fibrotic signaling in PVR reflects a clear trajectory toward research independence and future extramural funding.

Equally important are Dr. Ross's qualities as an educator and leader. She is deeply invested in mentorship, having trained students, technicians, and junior trainees in both laboratory and



**WAYNE STATE**

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clinical research settings. She is thoughtful, collaborative, and highly respected by faculty and peers alike. Her ability to bridge basic science and clinical medicine makes her an invaluable contributor to the academic mission of our department.

Dr. Ross's achievements have already been recognized through multiple honors, including NIH T32 support and recent top poster awards at our institutional research forums. However, beyond these accomplishments, it is her clarity of purpose and unwavering commitment to a career in academic ophthalmology that most strongly leads us to recommend her for the Heed Residents Retreat.

We are confident that Dr. Ross will not only benefit from the mentorship and networking opportunities provided by the Heed Foundation but will also contribute meaningfully to the community of emerging academic leaders. She exemplifies the mission of the Heed Foundation to support the next generation of physician-scientists in ophthalmology. We give her our highest recommendation without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Juzych".

Mark Juzych, MD, MHSA  
Director, Kresge Eye Institute  
Chairman, Dept of Ophthalmology,  
Visual & Anatomical Sciences  
Wayne State University SOM

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reecha S. Bahl".

Reecha S. Bahl MD  
Residency Program Director  
DMC/WSU Ophthalmology Residency  
Associate Professor, Ophthalmology  
Wayne State University SOM

**Department of Ophthalmology, Visual and Anatomical  
Sciences**

540 E. Canfield, 8374 Scott Hall, Detroit, MI 48201  
Phone: 313-577-1061 Fax: 313-577-3125  
anatomy.med.wayne.edu

**Kresge Eye Institute**  
4717 St. Antoine, Detroit MI 48201  
Phone: 313-577-8900  
kresgeeye.org