

Heed ophthalmic Foundation
655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

April 13, 2026

RE: Anirudh Mukhopadhyay, MD – Heed Foundation Resident Retreat

Heed Foundation Resident Retreat Selection Committee,

We are pleased to write in strong support of Dr. Mukhopadhyay's application to the Heed Foundation Resident Retreat. We have had the opportunity to work closely with him during his residency at LSU Health Sciences Center – New Orleans, and have been consistently impressed by his intellectual curiosity, initiative, and commitment to both clinical excellence and academic growth.

Dr. Mukhopadhyay stands out as a resident who is not only highly capable, but deliberate in how he approaches his career. His interest in ophthalmology—and retina in particular—reflects a thoughtful progression from personal experience to clinical purpose. As he describes in his personal statement, his early exposure to vision loss within his own family shaped a lasting understanding of the real-world impact of ophthalmic disease. That perspective continues to inform how he connects with patients and frames his long-term goals.

Academically, he has distinguished himself at a level that is uncommon for a resident. His research portfolio is both extensive and focused, with multiple peer-reviewed publications, national presentations, and funded projects centered on retinal disease and real-world outcomes. Of particular note, Dr. Mukhopadhyay was awarded the Joe W. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation Research Grant, a \$50,000 award supporting translational research in macular degeneration and geographic atrophy. This is a highly competitive foundation that primarily funds established academic programs and carefully selected institutional initiatives rather than individual applicants. For a resident to secure support at this level speaks not only to the strength of his proposal, but also to his ability to think independently, identify meaningful research questions, and execute at a high level.

His scholarly work reflects that same level of maturity. His investigations into the economic and clinical value of anti-VEGF therapies demonstrate a forward-thinking approach to ophthalmology—one that integrates clinical outcomes, patient burden, and health system impact. He does not simply contribute to projects; he takes ownership of them, bringing them from concept through completion with consistency and discipline.

Clinically, Dr. Mukhopadhyay is dependable, thoughtful, and engaged. He demonstrates strong clinical judgment, communicates well with patients, and functions effectively within a team. He is the type of resident who can be trusted with responsibility and who consistently follows through. At the same time, he remains receptive to feedback and committed to continuous improvement—qualities that are essential for long-term success.

We have also been impressed by his ability to balance a demanding clinical schedule with sustained academic productivity. Whether coordinating research efforts, contributing to educational initiatives, or maintaining high standards in patient care, he approaches each responsibility with focus and professionalism. His recognition through competitive funding and academic honors reflects this sustained level of performance .

Importantly, Dr. Mukhopadhyay has a clear vision for his future. He is committed to a career as a physician-scientist in academic ophthalmology, with a focus on leveraging large-scale clinical data to improve outcomes in chronic retinal disease. This combination of clarity, work ethic, and demonstrated productivity positions him well to benefit from—and contribute meaningfully to—the Heed Resident Retreat.

In summary, Dr. Mukhopadhyay is an intelligent, motivated, and highly capable resident who has consistently demonstrated initiative, professionalism, and a strong commitment to his field. He brings a level of focus and maturity that sets him apart, and we strongly believe he will represent this cohort well.

We recommend him without reservation.

Sincerely,



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