

Dear Society of Heed Fellows Resident Retreat Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this application to attend the 20th Annual Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Resident Retreat. I see the retreat as a tremendous opportunity to learn from leaders in the field and near-peers about navigating a clinician-scientist pathway, to hone my early career plans, and to expand my community within academic ophthalmology. I believe that based on my background and career goals, I am well-suited to strongly contribute to and benefit from the Heed Resident Retreat this year.

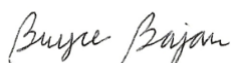
My longstanding career goal is to be a leader in vision science and clinical ophthalmology at a top academic medical center. Through my undergraduate work at Stanford University and combined MD/PhD training at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, I have established a background in live microscopy, cellular fluorescence imaging, and visual circuit assembly spanning over a decade. In my current position as a resident physician at University of California San Francisco, I am working to develop outstanding clinical and surgical ophthalmic skills while applying my scientific background to explore glaucoma diagnostics with cellular resolution and to study how principles of circuit development guide the reassembly of pathologic visual circuits. I plan on continuing these lines of research past my time in residency to form at least a portion of my future independent research program.

This upcoming academic year, I anticipate applying to glaucoma fellowship to develop a strong foundation in the clinical and surgical management of glaucoma. After completion of fellowship, I plan to join the faculty of a leading academic medical center, ideally one with a K12 program to facilitate starting a fundamental vision science laboratory. Importantly, I would prioritize a position in which I would have approximately 75% of my effort dedicated to developing an excellent research program and providing strong mentorship to scientific trainees. I aim to apply for a K08 award within a year of starting my faculty position and transition to independent support with a R01 thereafter.

I have been fortunate to benefit from an outstanding culture of inquiry and equal commitment to science and clinical care throughout my training, especially in my current department at UCSF. I have learned from exemplary physician scientists in our department, including Drs. Jacque Duncan, Yvonne Ou, Ying Han, Cathy Sun, Tyson Kim, and many others, whose balance of scientific innovation and outstanding clinical care provides a template for my own career goals. Additionally, I am glad to have continued support from my established mentors in science, including Drs. Michael Lin and Larry Zipursky, as I continue to aim to apply a background in fundamental science to answer critical translational questions. I undoubtedly will depend on the expertise of mentors current and future as I work towards establishing a career in scientific discovery and advancing ophthalmic care.

I am excited about the chance to attend the Heed Resident Retreat to build towards my career objectives, develop new mentorship relationships, and explore pathways to a fulfilling career in academic ophthalmology. Thank you for your consideration for my participation in the retreat this year.

Best regards,



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