

Throughout my life, I have been guided by a dedication to service and a commitment to building others up. One of my most influential mentors has been my father, a physician who transitioned from private practice to a career in academic anesthesiology out of a desire to educate and support future generations of clinicians. Observing his emphasis on professionalism, accountability to future trainees, and mentorship shaped my understanding of leadership as an investment in people.

My path to ophthalmology became clear during college following a concussion that brought me into an ophthalmology clinic for the first time. While my symptoms resolved quickly, sitting among patients facing chronic visual impairment left a lasting impression. I became acutely aware of how profoundly vision shapes independence and quality of life, and I was drawn to a field where preserving sight could have such a tangible impact on people's lives. Now as a resident, I have developed a strong interest in vitreoretinal disease, particularly complex surgical pathology, retinal vascular disease, and pediatric retinal disorders. I am motivated by the opportunity to combine advanced microsurgical care with long-term patient relationships while addressing diseases that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Long term, I aspire to be a retina specialist who integrates excellent patient care with impactful clinical and translational research to serve as one of the last lines of defense against blindness.

In parallel to my clinical interests, my involvement in graduate medical education committees, patient safety initiatives, and resident education have all served to reinforce my belief that a meaningful career in ophthalmology extends beyond the clinic and operating room, requiring an investment back to train those who follow me and to give back to my community. The Heed Fellowship Resident Retreat offers me a unique opportunity to engage with peers and mentors committed to academic excellence, collaboration, and thoughtful leadership. I am especially interested in discussions surrounding career development in academic subspecialties and the broader responsibilities of ophthalmologists as educators and advocates. Ultimately, I view the Heed Retreat as an important step in clarifying my career trajectory, strengthening my commitment to surgical retina in the context of academic medicine, and developing relationships that will shape my growth as a physician, researcher, and mentor.