



April 12, 2026

The Heed Ophthalmic Foundation
655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Re: Letter of support for Timothy Goblirsch, MD for Annual Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat

Dear Retreat Selection Committee:

We are writing with our strongest possible endorsement of Timothy Goblirsch, MD, a PGY-3 resident in Ophthalmology at the Scheie Eye Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, for selection to the 20th Annual Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat. This joint letter is submitted by Dr. Bennie Jeng, Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Director of the Scheie Eye Institute, and Dr. Victoria Addis, Residency Program Director. In these roles, we have both worked closely with Dr. Goblirsch throughout his Ophthalmology residency and feel highly confident speaking to his exceptional qualifications and strong academic potential.

Dr. Goblirsch exemplifies the qualities that the Heed Foundation seeks to cultivate—intellectual curiosity, leadership, academic productivity, and interest in a career in academic ophthalmology. From the outset of his residency, he has distinguished himself as an exceptionally thoughtful clinician, an emerging scholar, and a natural leader within our residency program.

Academically, Dr. Goblirsch has already established a remarkable trajectory. He has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications, including recent work on racial and ethnic disparities in diabetic retinal disease (manuscript is currently under review), and he has contributed to high-impact collaborative research efforts, including machine learning projects in cataract diagnostics as a part of an NEI collaboration. His scholarly output is complemented by a robust pipeline of ongoing and in-preparation manuscripts, reflecting both productivity and sustained academic engagement. He has presented regularly at national and regional meetings and has received recognition for the quality of his work. Importantly, his research interests demonstrate both scientific rigor and a commitment to addressing meaningful clinical and population health challenges—hallmarks of a future academic leader.

Beyond scholarship, Dr. Goblirsch has shown outstanding leadership within our institution. He currently serves on the Graduate Medical Education House Staff Council and multiple GME committees focused on safety, quality, and program oversight. These roles are highly selective and reflect the trust placed in him by institutional leadership. He has also taken initiative in improving clinical operations, notably developing a new patient-tracking light system to enhance efficiency in our high-volume walk-in clinic—an innovation that demonstrates both systems-based thinking and a commitment to patient-centered care.

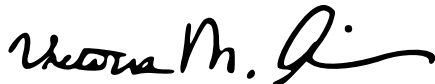
Dr. Goblirsch is equally dedicated to education and mentorship. He actively supports junior residents and medical students, consistently going above and beyond to foster a collaborative and positive learning environment. His co-leadership of Pennsylvania Diabetes Day at the University of Pennsylvania further highlights his ability to organize impactful educational and community-focused initiatives.

What truly distinguishes Dr. Goblirsch, however, is his character. He is universally regarded as one of the most collegial, professional, and optimistic members of our residency. He approaches every challenge with enthusiasm, humility, and a genuine desire to contribute meaningfully to his team and his field. These qualities, combined with his academic drive, make him exceptionally well-suited for a career in academic ophthalmology.

We are confident that Dr. Goblirsch will both benefit from and contribute meaningfully to the Heed Resident Retreat this year. He has the vision, work ethic, and leadership capacity to become a future leader in academic ophthalmology, and we recommend him without reservation.

Please feel free to contact us if additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Victoria M. Addis, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Residency Program Director



Bennie H. Jeng, MD
William F. Norris and George E. de Schweinitz Professor
Chair, Department of Ophthalmology