

Heed Residents Retreat Personal Statement

Growing up in a family of physicians, I was introduced early to the profound impact of restoring vision. My mother, a cornea specialist, often brought me along to clinic and surgery, where I witnessed firsthand the transformation in patients' lives after treatment. These experiences instilled in me not only a deep appreciation for ophthalmology, but also a lifelong commitment to compassionate, patient-centered care and continuous pursuit of excellence.

My early years were shaped by adaptability and resilience. Living in Canada during my childhood exposed me to new cultures and environments, challenging me to navigate unfamiliar settings and build meaningful connections. These formative experiences, combined with rigorous academic training at Tehran University of Medical Sciences and residency at Farabi Eye Hospital, laid a strong foundation in clinical ophthalmology and cultural competence. During residency, I managed a high volume of complex cases and performed numerous surgeries in a highly academic environment.

I am currently an ophthalmology resident at the University of Louisville, where I have continued to refine my clinical and surgical skills while actively engaging in research and academic activities. During my residency, I have presented my work at national and international meetings, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO), Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), and American Glaucoma Society (AGS). I have also been involved in mentoring medical students and contributing to academic initiatives that foster research engagement.

My primary research focus lies in the application of artificial intelligence to predict glaucoma progression using longitudinal structural and functional data. This work addresses a critical gap in glaucoma care—shifting from reactive detection to proactive, individualized risk prediction—and has the potential to significantly improve clinical decision-making and patient outcomes.

As I continue my training, I plan to pursue a glaucoma fellowship and build a career as a clinician–scientist in an academic setting. I am particularly interested in developing and translating AI-driven tools into clinical practice to enhance risk stratification and personalize patient care. Equally important to me is mentorship and education, as I aim to support the next generation of ophthalmologists in navigating both clinical training and research pathways.

The Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat offers a unique opportunity to engage with leaders in academic ophthalmology, gain mentorship, and further develop leadership skills essential for a career in academic medicine. I am eager to contribute to this community by sharing my diverse training experiences, my commitment to innovation in glaucoma care, and my passion for collaborative learning.

Ultimately, my goal is to advance ophthalmology through impactful research, excellent clinical care, and meaningful mentorship—continuing the legacy that first inspired me to pursue this field.