

April 17, 2026

Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat
Nomination Committee

RE: Vahid Mohammadzadeh , MD

It is our pleasure to strongly recommend that the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation consider Vahid Mohammadzadeh, M.D., for the 20th Annual Ophthalmic Foundation Retreat, September 26-27, 2026. As you will see from his Biographical Sketch and Personal Statement Dr. Mohammadzadeh has both the talent and desire to pursue a career in academic ophthalmology. He has already been impressively productive in his short career.

Dr. Mohammadzadeh received his M.D. from the Tehran University of Medical Sciences in 2013. This was followed by a Residency in Ophthalmology in the Department of Ophthalmology, Farabi Eye Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences which was completed in 2017. An International Fellowship in Glaucoma was completed at Jules Stein Eye Institute, UCLA, in 2020 followed by a Glaucoma Research Fellowship in Glaucoma at the Jules Stein Institute completed in 2023. He joined us in 2023 as a resident in the Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, University of Louisville, School of Medicine. He plans to pursue a Glaucoma Fellowship upon completion of his residency.

In 2024, he was awarded the American Glaucoma Society-Bernard Schwartz Award and in 2026, he was awarded the University of Louisville Research Runway Mentor Award.

At the Jules Stein Eye Institute, he collaborated with Dr. Kouros Nouri-Mahdavi on the establishment of Advanced Glaucoma Imaging and Artificial Intelligence focusing on the identification of glaucoma progression and in the early detection of glaucoma. The data encompassed 8,000 patients which allowed them to conceptualize and execute numerous research projects. Dr. Mohammadzadeh also has an interest in macular OCT and has published several studies in evaluating the structure-function relationship between macular OCT and visual field optimizing methods for evaluating rates of change of macular OCT in glaucoma.

He has presented his work at national and international meetings, including the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, and the American Glaucoma Society.

His focus is to pursue a career as a clinician-scientist in an academic setting. He has been an outstanding resident, exhibiting a fund of knowledge and technical skills that are far beyond expected at this stage of his education. He is clearly one of the most talented of our residents and is extremely knowledgeable (OKAP score: 99). He was just chosen to be our Chief Resident for next year.

In summary, Dr. Mohammadzadeh has our highest recommendation for an invitation to participate in the Heed Foundation Resident Retreat. He is highly interested in engaging with leaders in academic ophthalmology and gaining mentorship and leadership skills so he can pursue his dream of an academic career in ophthalmology.

If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Joern B. Soltau, MD
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Christopher Compton, MD
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
Drs. Arthur and Virginia Keeney Chair of Resident Education and Ethics
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