As I enter my final year of residency, I envision building a career as an academic glaucoma specialist at a large academic institution. My goal is to provide excellent longitudinal care for patients with chronic, sight-threatening disease while using clinical research and large-scale data to improve risk stratification, treatment selection, and long-term outcomes in glaucoma.

I look forward to training in a rigorous glaucoma fellowship that will prepare me to care for patients across the full spectrum of disease, from glaucoma suspects and early disease to complex and advanced glaucoma requiring surgical intervention. In particular, I hope to be exposed to a broad range of clinical cases and management philosophies. Learning from faculty with different perspectives will help me develop the judgment to tailor care to individual patients while also recognizing the limitations and treatment gaps that remain in glaucoma management.

At the same time, I hope to train in a fellowship environment where faculty are actively engaged in diverse areas of glaucoma research. Such an environment would allow me to better understand where the field is moving, refine my own academic interests, and develop personal expertise at the intersection of clinical glaucoma care and large-scale data analysis.

My long-term career plan is to join an academic ophthalmology department where I can pursue clinically meaningful research while teaching residents and fellows. Throughout medical school and residency, I have found immense gratification in both learning from senior residents, fellows, and faculty and teaching junior trainees. I hope to be part of a department with robust basic science and translational research programs, where observations from clinical datasets can generate hypotheses that may ultimately be tested in the laboratory, making research truly translational.

As a researcher, I plan to build a career centered on real-world evidence, longitudinal outcomes, and risk stratification in glaucoma. My current research uses large EMR datasets to address clinically relevant questions across ophthalmology, with an emphasis on modifiable factors and outcomes that may inform patient care. In glaucoma, I am evaluating the relationship between melatonin use, glaucoma incidence, glaucoma severity, and intraocular pressure among patients with sleep-wake disorders using SOURCE Collaboration data. I am also studying the longitudinal effects of femtosecond laser-assisted cataract surgery in patients with glaucoma using UCLA EMR data. These projects reflect the type of research program I hope to develop: clinically grounded, collaborative, and focused on translating datasets into actionable information for patients and physicians.

Ultimately, I hope to contribute to the field of glaucoma through excellent clinical and surgical care, dedicated teaching, and research that improves decision-making for patients with chronic eye disease. Fellowship will be a critical next step in developing the clinical skills and academic foundation necessary to achieve these goals. With continued mentorship and training, I hope to build a career that advances glaucoma care for individual patients while also contributing to the broader field of glaucoma.