

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY / DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AT UCLA  
100 Stein Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90095-7003

April 9, 2026

Dear Committee,

It is an absolute pleasure to provide this letter of support for Dr. David Hsu to be selected for participation in the 2026 Heed Resident Retreat. Dr. Hsu is a PGY3 resident in the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology. He is an outstanding resident with top-notch performance in all aspects of his residency training. **With his team-player mentality, exceptional clinical performance, and impressive research abilities, we believe that Dr. Hsu is an ideal candidate for participation in the Heed Retreat and that he would thrive in a career in academic ophthalmology. Per our discussion with Heed Ophthalmic Foundation staff, the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology is nominating three individuals for the 2026 Heed Retreat (two current PGY3 residents and one current PGY4 resident who will be our glaucoma fellow). Our department is able to provide retreat attendance funding for two of the three individuals.**

Dr. Hsu completed his undergraduate education at Stanford University where he excelled academically and graduated with departmental honors in biology. He is an accomplished tennis player and was an Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar Athlete at Stanford. In addition to his studies and athletics, Dr. Hsu pursued research opportunities as a Stanford Bio-X Undergraduate Fellow. He performed multiple research studies in cardiology which led to authorship on multiple peer-reviewed manuscript. Dr. Hsu then enrolled in medical school at the highly prestigious Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania. He continued with his outstanding research performance, working with multiple faculty at Penn and publishing manuscripts on a wide range of topics including Sjogrens syndrome and social media in the pandemic. Additionally, Dr. Hsu served as a Penn Medicine Institute for Translational Medicine and Therapeutics Summer Fellow and received the prestigious Dr. O.H. Perry Pepper Prize for academic excellence.

We were delighted when Dr. Hsu matched with us for his ophthalmology residency. He has been an absolute pleasure to have as a trainee and has performed at an outstanding level across multiple domains. In our internal academic standing evaluation system, Dr. Hsu is one of very few residents who achieved “above expectations” levels on multiple domains of academic standing. Clinically, multiple faculty have noted his positive attitude and strong work ethic. Dr. Hsu has also demonstrated impressive surgical skills for his early level of surgical training. In research, Dr. Hsu is actively pursuing research projects with multiple faculty in our department and has published a first-authored manuscript on multiple evanescent white dot syndrome. Additionally, he is working with our research team in the Stein Eye Center for Community Outreach and Policy to examine associations between melatonin use and glaucoma using the Sight Outcomes Research Collaborative database. Dr. Hsu has also served as a dedicated departmental citizen during his residency, serving as a member of the Resident Consult Task Force to improve ophthalmology consultations from inpatient units in the hospital.

In summary, **Dr. Hsu is a top-notch resident in our department with exceptional skills across multiple facets of academic ophthalmology.** He is an ideal candidate to participate in the Heed Resident Retreat and is an excellent candidate to pursue a career in academic ophthalmology. We give Dr. Hsu our highest recommendation without reservation. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,



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