



Julia A. Haller, MD

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April 24, 2026

Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat Selection Committee
Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology
655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Re: Turner Wibbelsman, MD

Dear Colleagues,

Dr. Turner Wibbelsman is a slam dunk candidate for the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Resident Retreat. **Turner stands out already as one of our most productive clinician scholars ever**, and this academic promise extends to superb clinical and surgical performance as a resident and respected colleague.

Turner graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, honors in his minor in Creative Writing, and also completed training in the HBX CORE Harvard Business School accelerated online business program. While at Chapel Hill, he received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship grant, wrote an honors thesis, and was also the Editor and Founding Member of *The Health Humanities Journal of UNC-Chapel Hill*, as well as volunteering as a peer writing advisor for the Office of Undergraduate Research.

After a post-baccalaureate pre-health studies year at the University of Pennsylvania, Turner joined the Wills Retina team for a one-year Retina Research Fellowship. During his fellowship year, Turner dove avidly into a wide array of research activities, demonstrated great initiative, and shepherded many projected to fruition. He finished with 30 peer-reviewed publications, 5 first-authored, while working closely with some of our most seasoned faculty mentors. He then matriculated to Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, where he was named to the Hobart Amory Hare Honor Society as well as AOA, and graduated cum laude. He was also a member of the Thomas Duane Ophthalmology Society and served admirably on the Committee of Student Advisors – one of his mentees, profiting from his example and tutoring, later matched at Wills – quite an outcomes success! Needless to say, Turner was a top residency draft pick – we knew him well and he excelled at everything we gave him.

At my most recent count, Turner has the CV of a productive faculty member, with 51 peer-reviewed publications and 4 book chapters, has edited a further 8 book chapters, and has had either posters or presentations at literally dozens of local, regional, national and international conferences. He has recently been elected as one of Wills' Co-Chief Residents by his peers and the medical leadership. He is a member of the Acquisitions Sub-Committee for the Museum of the Eye. His research has already received recognition, including with the Vit-Buckle Society Academic Grant, 1st

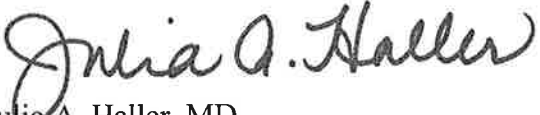
Place Award in the Pennsylvania Academy of Ophthalmology Grand Rounds, and the James S. Shipman, MD Award for best scientific presentation by a resident at the Wills Eye Conference when he was a PGY2.

Turner is the real deal, a quadruple threat total package. He is the trainee everyone wants to have around them: motivated, meticulous, and thorough in the clinic, prepared, responsible and dexterous in the operating room, a wonderfully organized, positive leader, and an innovative and productive scholar. His trajectory has been remarkable to cheer from the front row, and leads me to predict a brilliant future for this talented, focused, ambitious, charming, and empathetic young surgeon-scientist.

Turner would be the ideal candidate for the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Resident Retreat.

In the event two residents from Wills are selected, we are willing to fund the second resident.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julia A. Haller". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Julia A. Haller, MD