



Julia A. Haller, MD

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

Re: Martin Calotti, MD

Dear Colleagues,

It is a distinct pleasure to recommend the superlative Dr. Martin Calotti for the 20th Annual Heed Resident Retreat. At Wills Eye, I have seen firsthand that Martin embodies the excellence, integrity, intellectual curiosity, and commitment to academic mission that the Heed Retreat was created to support. He is an exceptional resident who has consistently distinguished himself as a rising leader in academic ophthalmology.

Martin's academic record is truly stellar; a Canadian, and graduate of the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Medical Science, Honors Specialization in Medical Sciences, and a Master of Management of Applied Sciences in Biological Sciences, he graduated in the top ten of his medical school class at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University and was inducted into the George McClellan Surgical Honor Society. His research productivity is equally impressive and reflects a sophisticated understanding of the evolving landscape of our field. Notably, Martin has developed a significant niche in the study of ocular trauma, spearheading projects that address modern mechanisms of injury. His work includes investigating the demographics, clinical characteristics, and outcomes of ophthalmic trauma related to pickleball, *Orbeez* gel pellets, baseball, bungee cords, and Nerf guns. To achieve this, Martin collaborated with the Jefferson data science team to develop a unique code that enables free-text searching within our EMR. This innovation has allowed us to identify specific injury patterns and research these topics in the Wills ER for the first time, providing a level of granular data previously unavailable to us. These endeavors, alongside his work with Dr. Carol Shields on retinoblastoma and the utility of large language models in patient education, demonstrate a remarkable breadth of inquiry. He has published 14 papers in the peer-reviewed literature, and presented an impressive 35 papers and posters at scientific conferences locally, nationally, and internationally.

Beyond his clinical and scientific achievements, Martin is a natural leader and a devoted educator. His exceptional work ethic is most evident in the Wills Eye Emergency Department, where he has spent more hours than any other resident. In this high-acuity environment, he does not simply manage a high volume of complex patients; he has become an invaluable mentor, guiding junior residents through difficult cases and scenarios with poise. It is this specific dedication to clinical excellence and peer mentorship that earned him the Luo Family Distinguished Service Award at graduation during his PGY 2 year.

Martin's peers and faculty recently recognized these leadership qualities by selecting him to serve as Chief Resident for the upcoming academic year. Martin has expressed a clear, dedicated interest in medical education with the long-term goal of serving as a Program Director. He already serves as a class representative on our Program Executive Committee and a mentor to medical students through the Thomas Duane Ophthalmology Society. Martin possesses the rare combination of academic rigor, dedicated commitment to training and mentorship, and compassionate leadership that the Heed Foundation seeks to champion. He will definitely be an active contributor to our field as an innovative, quietly charismatic educator, clinician, and scholar, and thus is a slam dunk candidate for the Heed 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".

Julia A. Haller, MD