



Queen's University  
**Department of Ophthalmology**  
166 Brock Street  
Kingston, Ontario, Canada

To:  
The Society of Heed Fellows and The Heed Ophthalmic Foundation  
**Re. 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**September 26 – 27, 2026**

**April 22, 2026**

Dear Members of the Board,

My career goal is to become an academic ophthalmologist with a focus on cornea and anterior segment disease, integrating excellent surgical care with meaningful research, education, and mentorship. As a third-year ophthalmology resident at Queen's University, I have come to recognize that the most fulfilling part of medicine for me lies not only in caring for patients directly, but also in contributing to the broader systems that improve outcomes through research, teaching, and academic leadership. After residency, I hope to pursue fellowship training in cornea and external disease/anterior segment surgery and to build a career in which these roles remain closely connected.

My academic interests have grown through an expanding body of work in ophthalmology, particularly in emergency eye care, anterior segment disease, ocular surface pathology, and surgical outcomes. I have been especially drawn to projects examining access to care, referral quality, and the delivery of urgent ophthalmic services, as these questions sit at the intersection of patient safety, health systems improvement, and equity. This work has led to multiple manuscripts in progress and presentations at national and international meetings, and has strengthened my commitment to clinically relevant research that informs practice and improves patient care.

Teaching and mentorship are equally central to the physician I hope to become. I value mentorship deeply because of the impact it has had on my own development. Early in my Master's research training, strong mentors fostered my curiosity and encouraged me to pursue meaningful academic questions. In clinical medicine, thoughtful feedback from excellent teachers has been essential in helping me refine my judgment and strengthen my skills. Their example has also inspired me to become a mentor myself. Throughout my training, I have valued opportunities to teach medical students and residents through clinical supervision, Grand Rounds, and skills-based instruction. I have found supporting learners and junior trainees to be one of the most meaningful aspects of academic medicine.

My background as a former NCAA Division I soccer athlete has also shaped how I approach medicine. It taught me discipline, resilience, humility, and the importance of strong teams. It also reinforced the value of accountability, trust, and mentorship within high-performing environments,

lessons that continue to inform how I lead, collaborate, and respond to challenge. I see the HEED Foundation Resident Retreat as an opportunity to learn from peers and mentors, continue growing as a future academic ophthalmologist, and refine how I can build a thoughtful, collaborative, and impactful career in cornea and anterior segment disease.

Sincerely,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Kelly Ann Hutchinson".

**Kelly Ann Hutchinson MDCM MSc**

PGY-3 Ophthalmology

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