What drew me most to ophthalmology was the field's unique culture of innovation in clinical research and patient care. Ophthalmology has been repeatedly transformed by advances in imaging, therapeutics, and now artificial intelligence, and it continues to adapt new technologies into clinical care with an extraordinary speed and openness. Many of these advances began in academia, where new ideas are carefully tested before moving forward to reshape the field more broadly. As such, I am drawn to this process of pairing innovation with scientific rigor in ophthalmology and medicine at large, and I hope to build a career in academic ophthalmology as a clinician-scientist focused on developing and translating innovation with a clinically meaningful lens.

My early training in chemistry, together with specialized study in biotechnology at University of Cambridge, first introduced me to translational science and to the idea of moving promising scientific advances toward patient care. At WashU School of Medicine, that interest matured through clinical research with Dr. Rajendra Apte. Over the past three years as a medical student, clinical research fellow, and now resident physician, I have helped lead and implement imaging-based clinical studies spanning retrospective studies to clinical trials that have informed my current research interest in oculomics: the use of retinal imaging as a window into systemic disease. My recent work in retinal findings of RVCL-S and multiple sclerosis led to my interests in developing retinal vascular biomarkers for other systemic diseases. As such, my current research studies revolve around identifying OCT-A biomarkers that can quantify microvascular dysfunction in conditions such as preeclampsia and diabetic retinopathy, with the goal of improving diagnosis, risk stratification, and disease monitoring. Long term, I hope to pursue fellowship training and join academic faculty, where I can combine subspecialty clinical care with translational research, mentorship, and heading multicenter clinical trials. I would be honored to participate in the Heed Residents Retreat because it would allow me to learn from academic ophthalmologists who have built the kind of career I hope to pursue: one that integrates innovation, patient care, clinical research, and academic leadership.