

My desire to pursue medicine stemmed from my experiences navigating care access and language barrier issues while caring for my ailing aunt Cecelia - a middle-aged Igbo-speaking woman with a primary school education. Ophthalmology itself came into view in medical school, where I not only marveled at the ability to directly visualize pathology but also at the seamless integration of community, creativity, and dedication to patient care amongst my soon-to-be mentors. I saw myself in an intellectually stimulating field where I could improve access to care for people like my aunt.

Years later, I am now a graduating ophthalmology resident with a strong foundation in clinical research spanning ophthalmic disease, global health, and interdisciplinary care. My scholarly work has focused on corneal and retinal disease, health disparities, and clinical decision-making, resulting in multiple peer-reviewed publications in journals such as American Journal of Ophthalmology, Cornea, and PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases. Through these experiences, I developed an interest in improving patient outcomes through evidence-based and data-driven approaches.

As I advanced through my residency training, real-time clinical interactions with patients further colored my motivations to pursue empirically supported clinical problem solving. My current research focuses on diagnostic accuracy and patient-centered innovations in ophthalmic care. I am actively involved in projects evaluating the diagnostic utility of imaging findings in idiopathic intracranial hypertension as well as interventions for the reduction of ocular discomfort following routine intravitreal injections. In parallel, I am engaged in quality improvement and device development and have actively contributed to a provisional patent aimed at enhancing the efficiency of visual acuity assessment. These efforts reflect my interest in developing clinically impactful and scalable solutions that improve both patient experience and care delivery.

My next immediate steps toward my goal of becoming a well-rounded academic ophthalmologist and patient advocate involve my assumption to the role of Chief of Ophthalmic Trauma at Washington University come July 2026. During this role, I will serve as an attending, staffing trainees on all inpatient and emergency eye consults as well as taking incoming globe traumas for operative repair.

From there, I plan to pursue a fellowship in medical retina and uveitis while refining my surgical skills along the way. Ultimately, after years of establishing a practice and teaching trainees, I hope to offer my knowledge and skills for the advancement of ophthalmic training programs in Nigeria, my ancestral home.