

# STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY

BYERS EYE INSTITUTE AT STANFORD



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To the Society of Heed Fellows and the Heed Foundation:

It is with great pleasure that we write this letter to express our strongest recommendation for Arnav Moudgil, MD, PhD for the Annual Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat. As part of our SOAR (research track) program, Arnav is an outstanding trainee in both the clinic and lab with a deep commitment to innovation in both research and education. Participation in this retreat will further accelerate what is already a remarkable academic career in ophthalmology.

We met Arnav during the ophthalmology residency application season, where he distinguished himself as an MD/PhD candidate of the highest caliber. He completed his doctoral training in computational biology at Washington University in St. Louis, where he developed foundational technologies to study transcription factor binding at single-cell resolution, culminating in multiple high-impact publications, including first-author work in *Cell*. As a graduate student he received a competitive NIH F30 individual fellowship. He also was awarded the Olin Medical Science Fellowship for superior accomplishment in biomedical research by doctoral students.

Since joining Stanford, Arnav has continued to excel as a physician-scientist. He is currently pursuing postdoctoral research in developmental genomics under the mentorship of Drs. Sui Wang and Alistair Boettiger, where he is expanding his expertise into retinal development, gene regulation, and advanced imaging approaches, particularly as it relates to cell fate decisions during ocular development and in the pathogenesis of disease. His interdisciplinary interests have also allowed him to maintain active collaborations with scientists at Washington University in St. Louis and the University of California San Francisco. His long-term goal is to lead an independent laboratory focused on the molecular mechanisms of cell fate decisions in the retina, with applications to gene therapy and regenerative medicine. His ability to bridge computational and experimental biology positions him uniquely to make transformative contributions to the field.

Equally impressive is Arnav's performance as a resident. He has demonstrated exceptional discipline, innovation, and generosity as a learner and colleague. Notably, he leveraged AI to help him build his medical knowledge base and prepare for the annual Ophthalmic Knowledge Assessment Program (OKAP) examination. As a PGY-2, he converted the BCSC textbooks into audiobooks to capture every bit of unused time to maximize learning. As a PGY-3, he built a customized large language model-based study tool that he shared with his co-residents. These efforts not only reflect his intellectual resourcefulness but also his commitment to elevating the learning environment for those around him. His mastery of the material is evident in his performance, having achieved the highest OKAP examination score in our program for two consecutive years.

In recognition of his clinical excellence and leadership, Arnav has been selected to serve as one of two Administrative Chief Residents for the coming academic year. He is widely respected among his peers for his judgment, professionalism, and willingness to support others, and we are confident he will excel in this important leadership role within our residency program.

In summary, Arnav has exceptional scientific vision, outstanding clinical aptitude, and a collaborative forward-thinking mindset that distinguishes him among his peers. We are confident that he will emerge as a leader in academic ophthalmology and make meaningful contributions to advance our field. We give him our strongest recommendation for the Heed Foundation Residents' Retreat and hope you will give him your highest consideration.

Sincerely,



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