

April 26, 2026

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for **Kevin C. Allan, MD, PhD** for Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat

Dear Selection Committee:

It is with great pleasure that we recommend Kevin Allan, MD, PhD for inclusion in the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat. Kevin is an exceptionally talented physician scientist whose trajectory clearly reflects that of a future leader in academic ophthalmology. He is not only one of the finest residents we have trained at the Cole Eye Institute, but also among the most driven toward an academic career that we have mentored over the past decade.

Kevin's academic foundation is outstanding. He completed both his MD and PhD at Case Western Reserve University with near-perfect academic performance and a rigorous research background in genetics and genome sciences. His PhD work in oligodendrocyte biology culminated in high-impact publications, including a first-author publication in *Cell*, underscoring both his scientific creativity and ability to execute complex, translational research.

Since finding ophthalmology toward the end of medical school and starting residency at Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Kevin has seamlessly translated his scientific rigor into clinically meaningful investigation. He has built an impressive and rapidly growing body of ophthalmic research, including first author publications in *Ophthalmology* and *Ophthalmology Retina*, with a particular focus on retinal disease and systemic associations with medications like GLP-1 receptor agonists. Kevin has had the opportunity to present this work at multiple meetings, including AAO, ASRS, ARVO and the Retina Society. Not surprisingly, Kevin is our most productive resident researcher in recent memory. Beyond that, he is a collaborator—he is a true team player who elevates those around him and contributes meaningfully to multidisciplinary efforts. He includes fellow trainees and medical students in his projections and helps to mentor their efforts.

In addition to his research accomplishments, Kevin is developing into an outstanding clinician and surgeon. He is an excellent resident with strong clinical acumen and surgical skills. He was recently elected to be one of our two chief residents by his peers and faculty members, reflecting the high regard in which he is held. He is a natural leader amongst the residents and is always looking for ways to strengthen the resident experience. Due to an increasing number of emergency room and inpatient consults, Kevin's residency class proposed that we switch over to a night float system to assist with call and prevent resident burnout. We were impressed when Kevin and a co-resident took the initiative to put together a rotation schedule that minimized disruptions to clinics. His maturity and promise as a future educator were evident throughout this process. Further underscoring his excellence, Kevin has achieved the top OKAP score in our residency program for two consecutive years.

Kevin is an ideal candidate for the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat. Beyond the formal curriculum, he would benefit greatly from the opportunity to establish connections with peers and mentors committed to academic ophthalmology. Exposure to a national network of physician scientists and future academic leaders would meaningfully support his professional development and foster relationships that

will shape his academic career. Just as importantly, Kevin would contribute thoughtfully to the retreat through his intellectual curiosity, collegiality, and commitment to advancing the field.

Overall, Kevin Allan is a model ophthalmology resident. He has demonstrated excellence in clinical care, scholarly productivity, and leadership throughout residency. His commitment to academic ophthalmology is evident through consistent action and achievement. We recommend him enthusiastically for the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat and are confident that he will both benefit from and add value to this experience. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us at srivass2@ccf.org or goshej@ccf.org.

Please note that we are nominating two residents for the Heed Retreat and are committed to financially supporting the second nominee should both candidates be selected.

Sincerely,



Sunil K. Srivastava, MD
Department Chair
Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic



Jeffrey Goshe, MD
Ophthalmology Residency Program Director
Cole Eye Institute, Cleveland Clinic



Sunil K. Srivastava, MD
The Barbara and A. Malachi Mixon III
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