



Ophthalmology & Vision Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

April 28, 2026

Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology
655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

RE: Dr. Joseph Hanna

Dear Members of the Heed Foundation Selection Committee

It is with great pleasure and a good deal of enthusiasm that we provide our strong support for Dr. Joseph Hanna in his application to the Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Residents Retreat.

Dr. Hanna is a third-year ophthalmology resident at the University of Toronto. His academic training is extensive, including a Doctor of Medicine, as well as both a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology/Vision Sciences. His research has been supported by significant competitive funding, including a Canadian Institutes of Health Research doctoral award, reflecting the high caliber and impact of his work.

Dr. Hanna has established an impressive record of scholarly productivity, with multiple peer-reviewed publications in the fields of glaucoma, retinal disease, and neurodegeneration. His research program is highly translational, with a clear focus on optic nerve disease and neuroprotection. In parallel, he has demonstrated excellence in clinical training, recognized by being awarded the Dr. John Speakman award as well as the Dr. W. Gordon C. Kelly award for outstanding resident performance.

Beyond his academic and clinical achievements, Dr. Hanna has shown strong leadership and engagement within the residency program, including service as a resident representative and involvement in provincial trainee organizations. He is a thoughtful, motivated, and highly professional individual with a clear commitment to an academic career in ophthalmology.

Dr. Hanna is exceptionally well suited for the Heed Residents Retreat. We are confident he will both benefit from and contribute meaningfully to this program, and we recommend him without reservation.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amandeep Rai, MD, FRCS
Program Director Residency Program
Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences
Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

Peter J. Kertes, MD CM, FRCS
Professor and Chair
Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences
Temerty Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto
Ophthalmologist-in-Chief, Kensington Eye Institute
Vitreoretinal Surgeon
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Hospital for Sick Children