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April 27th, 2026

Society of Heed Fellows
Heed Ophthalmic Foundation
655 Beach Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

Re: Shannan Moore, MD

Dear Members of the Resident Retreat Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm and without reservation that I nominate Dr. Shannan Moore for the 20th Annual Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Resident Retreat. As Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, I have had the privilege of observing Dr. Moore's development as both a clinician and a scholar since she joined our residency program in June 2025. In that brief time, she has demonstrated precisely the qualities this retreat was designed to cultivate: intellectual curiosity, a demonstrated commitment to research, and a clear focus on a career in academic ophthalmology.

Dr. Moore arrived at UNM with a strong research foundation for a first-year resident. Prior to beginning her residency, she completed a dedicated postgraduate research fellowship in the Sight-Saving Engagement and Evaluation (SEEN) Lab at the Yale Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences under Dr. Kristen Nwanyanwu, a nationally recognized leader in health disparities and diabetic retinopathy. During her fellowship, Dr. Moore learned the basics of experimental design and statistical approaches, and contributed to peer-reviewed publications focused on designing digital health tools to prevent blindness from diabetic retinopathy among high-risk patients. She has authored four peer-reviewed journal articles, an excellent level of scholarly activity for a first-year ophthalmology resident. Her conference presentations span the closely related topics of glaucoma medication adherence, diabetic retinopathy screening, glycemic control, and health equity.

Dr. Moore's research has been recognized at the national forums. She was awarded first place in the Rabb-Venable Excellence in Ophthalmology Research Program Competition at the National Medical Association's 2023 Annual Convention, has presented her work at the ARVO Annual Meeting, and has been a grant recipient of the American Society of Retina Specialists' Empowerment & Opportunity Mentorship program. She was selected for the UCLA Department of Ophthalmology Underrepresented in Ophthalmology Visiting Medical Student Scholarship, in recognition of academic excellence, dedication to health equity, and commitment to serving the underserved. She is also a past awardee of a grant through the Vit Buckle Society's Fostering Careers for Underrepresented Stars (FOCUS) program. These awards reflect a high regard for Dr. Moore's achievements and academic potential.

Beyond the laboratory and the clinic, Dr. Moore has consistently taken leadership roles throughout her training. As a medical student in the inaugural class at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine, she founded and led both the Ophthalmology and General Surgery Student Interest Groups, served as Vice President of the Student National Medical Association, and was selected as a voting member of her school's admissions committee, the latter a responsibility extended to only three medical students at her school, and one that speaks directly to the trust her institution placed in her judgment and character. Her record of volunteer work includes sustained service at free eye clinics (Orange County Eye Project and UCLA Mobile Eye Clinic), MCAT tutoring for underrepresented premedical students, and community health work across multiple states and settings. These experiences reflect a physician with a sense of dedication toward the well-being of others and one who has pursued her goals with consistency throughout her training.

The Heed Resident Retreat is designed for residents who have the talent and desire to build careers in academic ophthalmology. Dr. Moore is exactly that resident. She brings a sophisticated understanding of the intersection of clinical care, research, and health equity that is unusual at the PGY-1 level. She is a superb communicator, a quality I directly observed in congressional offices at the recent 2026 AAO Mid-Year Forum. Dr. Moore presented our American Academy of Ophthalmology talking points to our Congresswoman with clarity and confidence. It was particularly gratifying to me as her Chair to see how compelling Dr. Moore could be when discussing issues of importance to her (and to all of us). Such clarity in communication will serve her well in the retreat's informal mentorship component. I am confident Dr. Moore will engage deeply with the faculty attendees, and will represent our department and our institution with distinction. My hope is that she will return to Albuquerque with new mentorship and professional relationships and be inspired to continue on her path toward a long and impactful academic career.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss Dr. Moore's qualifications further. And thank you for your kind consideration of her application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Chodosh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Chodosh, MD MPH