

April 27, 2026

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

Dear Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Resident Retreat Selection Committee:

It is our distinct pleasure to write this incredibly strong letter of nomination for Dr. Katharine Weintraub to participate in the 20th Annual Heed Ophthalmic Foundation Resident Retreat. She is an absolutely outstanding resident: brilliant, proactive, meticulous, compassionate, and relentlessly prepared. She will be a star as an ophthalmic physician-scientist, and we could not recommend her more highly for a spot at this retreat. Not only will she benefit from this retreat, but we are confident the retreat will benefit from having her involved.

On the clinical side, Dr. Weintraub is among the most brilliant, and certainly the most prepared, of any resident we have trained. She comes to clinic and OR not only having read about each patient but having developed her own thoughts and plans for each as well. More often than not, these plans reveal a depth of understanding that is rare among even senior residents. When you combine this preparation, incredible work ethic, and natural aptitude for all things ophthalmology, you have a physician that truly puts her patients first and makes it her mission to see that they receive the highest possible level of care. This is noticed by both her attendings and, more importantly, her peers; in fact, several of her co-residents have stated that they strive to live up to the standard she sets. As an attending ophthalmologist, she will undoubtedly inspire trainees in the same manner, encouraging them to live up to her example as a thoughtful, well-read, and thoroughly dependable physician.

In addition to being an excellent clinician, Dr. Weintraub already has the makings of an impactful scientist. When you speak with her, you immediately sense just how passionate and excited she is about research. She derives true joy from discovery, something that you can see in her past research and in her future ambitions. She does not, however, only bring passion to research; she also brings an incredible sense of organization and planning that allows her to follow through on ideas in a way that few can. Her combination of creative thinking and structured follow-through makes her the ideal candidate for an academic career as a physician scientist, and we cannot wait to see how she advances our field in the future.

As you might have guessed from the descriptions above, Dr. Weintraub was an easy selection as one of our chief residents for her senior year. That decision, though, was not based only on her excellence as a resident. Rather, it also reflects our belief that she will be, and in many ways already is, a leader. Since

her first day in our program, Dr. Weintraub has never been afraid to speak up on behalf of the residents, advocating effectively and eloquently for her peers on several issues. They naturally look to her as their spokesperson, and she fulfills that role admirably. Working closely with residency leadership, Dr. Weintraub goes beyond simply identifying areas for improvement. Instead, she shows up with a plan, full formed and typically documented on a spreadsheet, that she thinks could or should be implemented. We have no doubt that she will bring this confidence and clarity to her career in academic ophthalmology.

Needless to say, Dr. Weintraub is already an excellent ophthalmologist and scientist, and we know she will be an exceptional clinician, mentor, and leader in the future. Our profession needs to keep physicians like her in academic ophthalmology, and we give her our highest recommendation without reservation. We truly hope you consider her for this honor.

Sincerely,



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