


MedStar Georgetown University Hospital/  
MedStar Washington Hospital Center  
Residency Program in Ophthalmology

# Welcome to our Program





*“Is it not a privilege to be one of the founders of an institution established for the relief of human misery and the restoration of sight and hearing?”*

-- Bishop Satterlee, announcing campaign to build Episcopal Hospital.  
Episcopal was built in 1897 and is our direct predecessor.



# We are committed to:

- Superior medical and surgical education
- Compassionate, ethical and efficient medical and surgical eye care
- Your training
- Your success





## Our Program:

- 18 Residents, 6 PGY1 Interns
- 4 Retina Fellows
- Over 175 Dedicated Faculty in All Subspecialties
- 7 Clinical Sites
- Focus on Autonomy and Clinical Confidence
- 124 Years of Resident Education, Patient Care and Innovation



# Clinical Experience

## Average Annual Procedures (at MWHC alone):

- 20,000+ clinic procedures
- 13,000+ cataract/general evaluations
- 5,000+ glaucoma evaluations
- 3,000+ retina evaluations



# Surgical Experience

## The 2023 Senior Residents Performed:

- 2150+ Class I surgeries in all rotations
- 3,000+ total resident surgeries

PGY2 residents begin assisting in surgery early in the academic year.

Residents begin performing cataract surgery as primary physician in the PGY3 year.



## Quality: Patient Care

One of city's largest, most complete facilities, with comprehensive ophthalmology clinics and subspecialty clinics in:

Glaucoma

Ocular motility

Vitreoretinal disease

Low vision

Oculoplastics

Orbital disease

Uveitis

Cornea and external disease

Neuro-ophthalmology

Ocular Trauma



## We're All About Residents

- Protected Lecture Time
- Limited Number of Fellows – only retina
- Procedures: LASIK, Premium Lenses, K-Pro, Advanced Glaucoma Surgery, DSAEK, intravitreal injections, PROKERA, etc.
- Opportunity for international/mission trips
- Free Food (and it tastes good, too)!





## Resources

- Georgetown University
- Wet Labs
- Surgical Simulator
- On-Site Ocular Pathology Lab
- Attendance at National Programs and Meetings
- Attendance at National Training Symposia
- Access to Superb Medical Libraries
- GME Support
- Practice Experience of More Than 175 Ophthalmologists



# Cutting-Edge Research

- Majority of Residents Present at National Meetings
- Resident Research Day
- Award for Ocular Innovation – cash award given annually to the resident whose proposal is selected for the best original concept, operation, instrument or invention in ophthalmology
- Full-Time PhD Research Faculty
- Faculty Involvement in National Studies



# Residency Program Affiliates



# MedStar Washington Hospital Center

Stacy Bang, MD

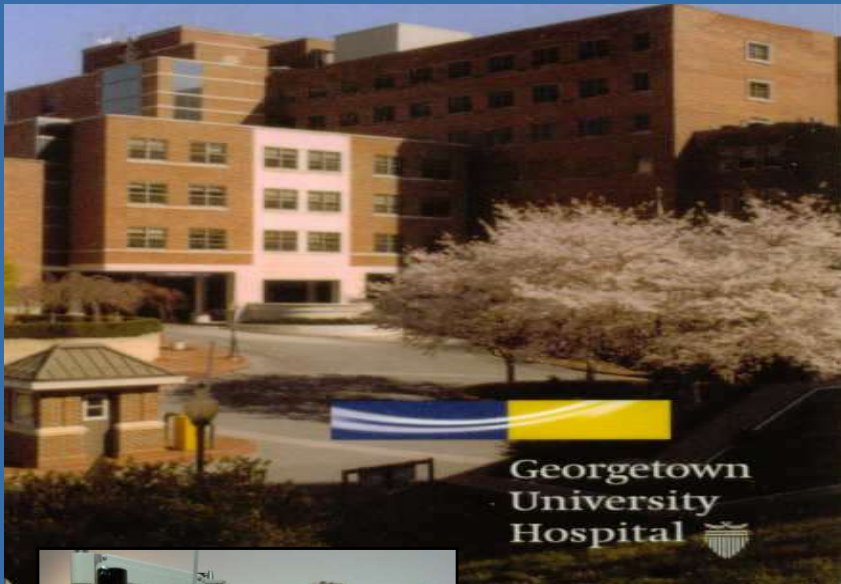


- Home Base
- Fully-supervised resident-run clinic
- Level I Trauma Center
- Excellent learning environment
- Extensive and varied pathology



# MedStar Georgetown University Hospital

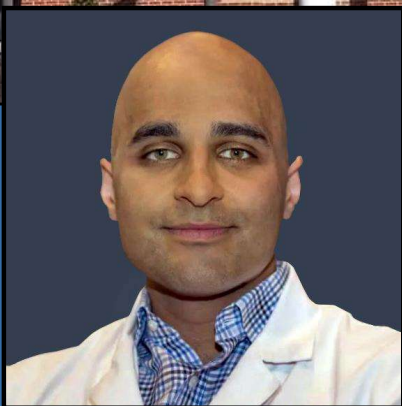
Jay M. Lustbader, MD



- Work directly with attendings in their practices
- Ophthalmic Pathology experience
- Basic science faculty available for research

# MedStar St. Mary's Hospital

Jorawer Singh, MD



- Extensive clinical and surgical experience in a largely underserved area
- Comprehensive, cornea and glaucoma experience
- Excellent learning environment

# DC Veterans Affairs Hospital

Soo Y. Shin, MD



- Resident-run clinic
- PGY3 cataract surgery
- Full subspecialty faculty

# Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

Rachel Lieberman, MD



- PGY2 rotation
- Glaucoma and retina experience
- Experience in a large military general ophthalmology setting



# Inova Fairfax Hospital

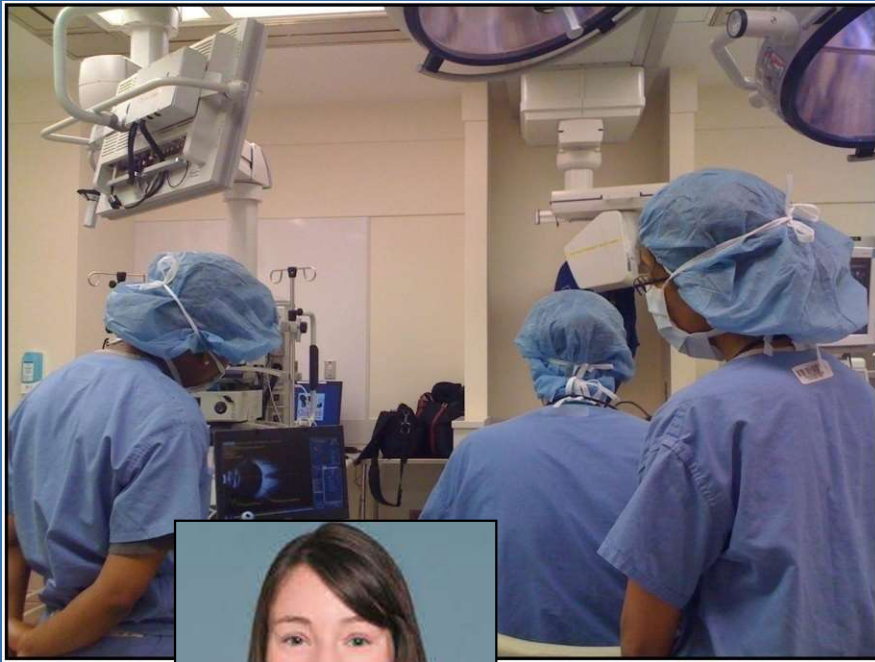
Tofik Ali, MD



- General and subspecialty clinics and operating room experience during PGY3 and PGY4 rotations
- Private surgery center experience

# Children's National Medical Center

Bethany Karwoski, MD



- Nationally recognized pediatric hospital
- Birthplace of Pediatric Ophthalmology
- Exposure to multiple rare inherited disorders in PGY3 rotation



# PGY2 Rotations:

## MedStar Washington Hospital Center PLUS

- MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
- Walter Reed National Military Medical Center



# PGY3 Rotations:

## MedStar Washington Hospital Center PLUS

- 2-month pediatric rotation through Children's National Medical Center
- 2-month rotation through MedStar Georgetown University Hospital with experience in Cornea, Pediatrics and Neuro-Ophthalmology
- 4-month rotation through DC Veterans Affairs Hospital
- 2-month rotation through Inova Fairfax Hospital/MedStar Washington Hospital Center
- Dedicated research time
- Ocular Pathology





# Rotation Schedule: PGY4

## MedStar Washington Hospital Center PLUS

- DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center
- Inova Fairfax Medical Center
- MedStar St. Mary's Hospital
- Optional Mission/International Trip



# Academics

- Wednesday academic afternoon
- Visiting Professor Series
- Journal Clubs
- FA Conferences
- MRI, Plastics, Ocular Motility, Neuro-op Rounds
- Symposia
- Interaction with other area program residents
- Grand Rounds
- Morbidity and Blindness Rounds
- Surgical Simulation/Wet Labs



# Employee Benefits and Compensation

- Health and dental insurance
- Paid vacation
- Meal allowance
- Free parking
- Highly competitive salaries
- Much more!



## 2023 Graduates:

Natalia Diaz Torres Private Practice – Williamsburg, VA

Russel Dinh Retina – Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Kristin Godwin Fellowship – Retina – Wake Forest U, Winston-Salem, NC

Marielle Mahan Fellowship – Oculoplastics – OHSO/Casey Eye Institute, Portland, OR

Tiffany Shahrooz Fellowship – Anterior Segment/Refractive Surgery – USC Roski Eye Institute, Los Angeles, CA

Justin Shortell Fellowship – Glaucoma – Wills Eye Inst., Philadelphia, PA





## 2022 Graduates:

Frank Abella Ayala

Fellowship – Neuro-op – USC Roski Eye Institute

Julio Albarracin

Fellowship – Cornea – Emory University Eye Center

Michael Izzo

Fellowship – Glaucoma – Wills Eye Hospital

Davina Kirschenbaum

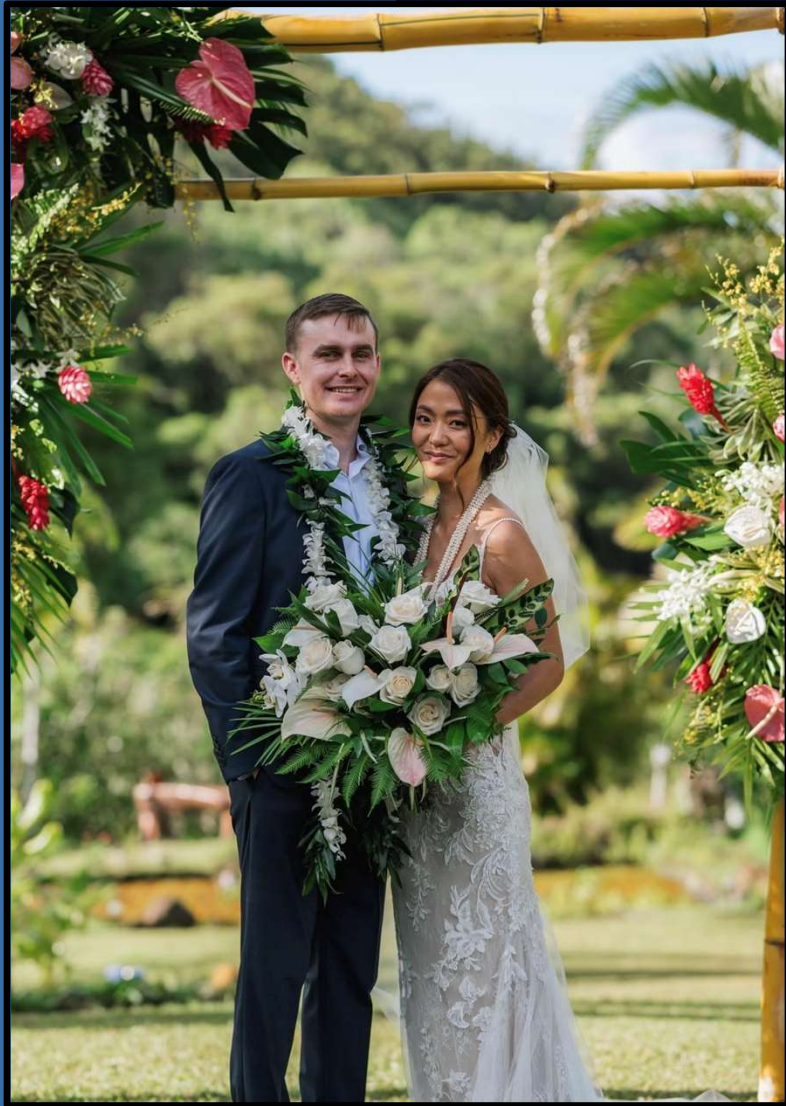
Fellowship – Cornea – Moran Eye Center

Georgina Medina

Fellowship – Glaucoma – Emory Univ. Eye Center

Karine Shebaclo

Fellowship – Oculoplastics – Wills Eye Hospital



“If you are looking for a program that will build your confidence in tackling any intimidating ophthalmic case, look no further. We see a wide array of complex pathology at a high frequency with a ton of autonomy, which makes you confident in medical and surgical management well before becoming an attending. Although seeing only eyeballs is daunting at first, the faculty and your peers are very supportive and foster an optimal learning environment. We worked hard, but played harder when enjoying the wonderful city of DC and its surrounding states.”

**Justin Shortell, MD**

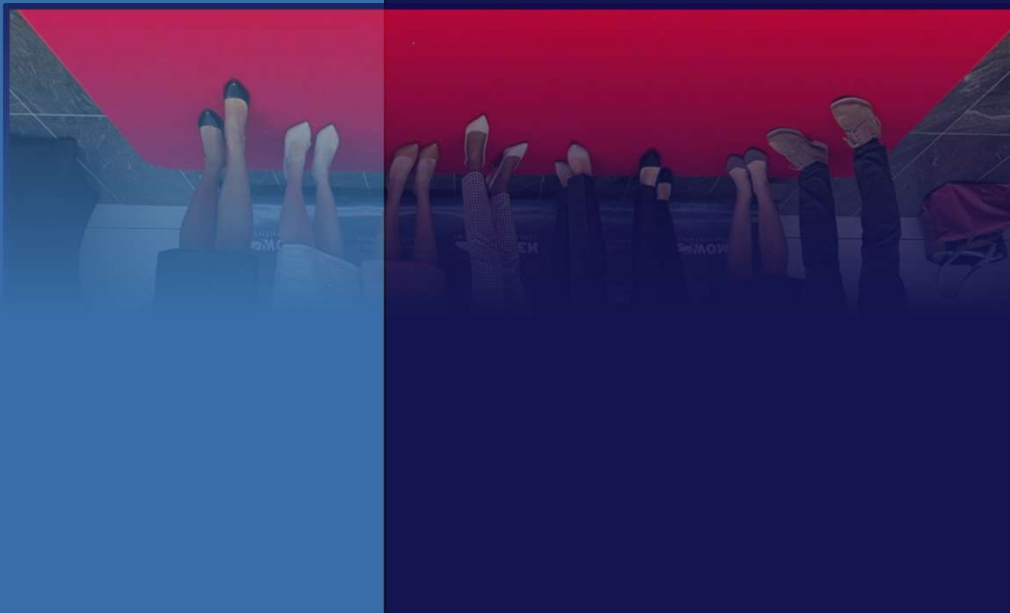
**Class of 2023 (Chief Resident)**



“While in the MWHC/GUH ophthalmology residency program, my co-residents became my best friends and my attendings became my lifelong mentors. I graduated from the program with strong clinical and procedural skills, prepared for the next chapter in my career.

Currently, as an anterior segment fellow, I frequently encounter patients with complex ocular pathology and am learning to perform complex anterior segment surgery. Thanks to my residency experience, I can confidently diagnose complex pathology and manage these complex cases!”

**Sanam Tiffany Shahrooz, MD**  
**Class of 2023**







**Russel Dinh, MD**  
**Class of 2023 (Chief Resident)**

“Our ophthalmology program prepares you to handle any situation with confidence and poise. We see a wide array of complex pathology and you have the opportunity to see eye disease in every step of its’ evolution. Our resident clinic at Washington Hospital Center, where you spend the majority of your residency, has the perfect mix of autonomy and attending supervision which allows you to take ownership of your patients and make important decisions in their care, even early on. We value collegiality and hard work which makes for an amazing learning experience in one of the great American cities!”



“Autonomy with graded supervision is key in this program. You are your patients' primary ophthalmologist from the beginning of your training. You will follow your patients longitudinally for three years, while observing yourself grow from a strong clinician into an adept and flexible surgeon. Your co-residents and faculty will become your second family away from home, and you will forge some of our life's closest friendships. As a new ASOPRS Oculoplastics fellow at Wills Eye, I hit the ground running and owe it to my faculty mentors at Georgetown. Oh, and you will never be underfed thanks to your new DC mom, Penny!”

**Karine Shebaclo, MD**  
**Class of 2022 (Chief Resident)**





“You will learn ophthalmology wherever you go, but why not do it surrounded by amazing mentors, colleagues and friends that will help you each step of the way?!”

Currently as a fellow, I've been working with neuro-ophthalmology, oculoplastics, comprehensive ophthalmology and pediatric ophthalmology and thanks to my training, I have felt confident in managing anything that comes through the door!

**Frank Abella Ayala, MD**  
**Class of 2022**



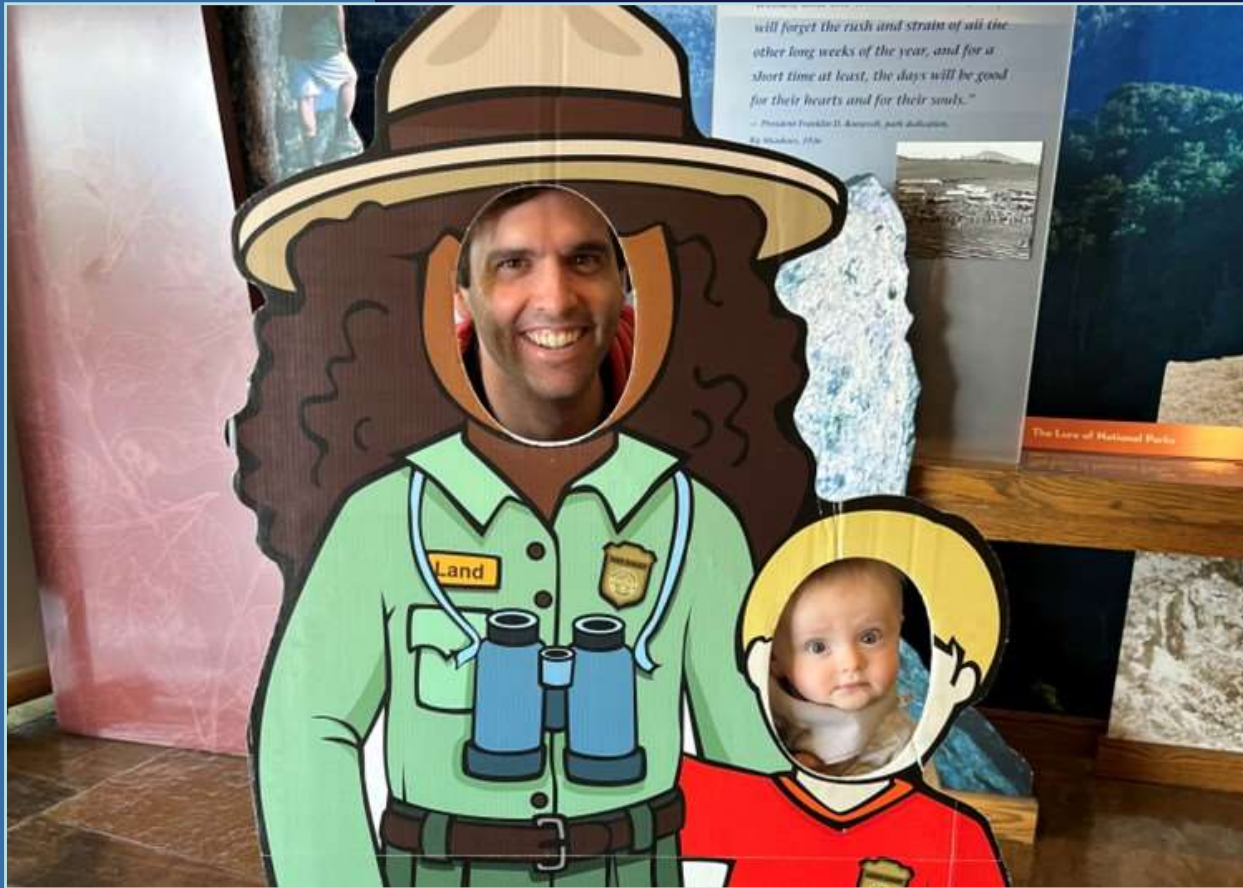


“I learned so much during my 3 years at Georgetown/ WHC. Our program sees a diverse range of patients and pathologies in our resident clinic, which leads to high caliber training in one of the best cities in the US. Our (sometimes crazy) experiences in the clinic and the OR make us autonomous early on, and made me feel confident that I could handle anything that came my way after I left the program. **HOWEVER**, the main selling point of our program is that we are a close group that knows how to have fun. I loved the environment so much I stayed on for fellowship!”

**Mariam Mathai, MD**

**Class of 2020**

**Retina Fellowship Class of 2022**



“I feel very fortunate to have trained at Georgetown/WHC. We are blessed with a great team of residents, who (actually) like to hang out outside of work. We are also exposed to a wide breadth of pathology through the largest hospital in DC. You will find that the patients come to clinic and refer to the resident as “their doctor”. It is this high level of graduated autonomy that sets our program apart clinically. I feel well prepared to manage anything that comes my way! This is truly a wonderful place to train and will prepare you for whatever comes next!”

## Meet the Chiefs:

Philip Conkling, MD

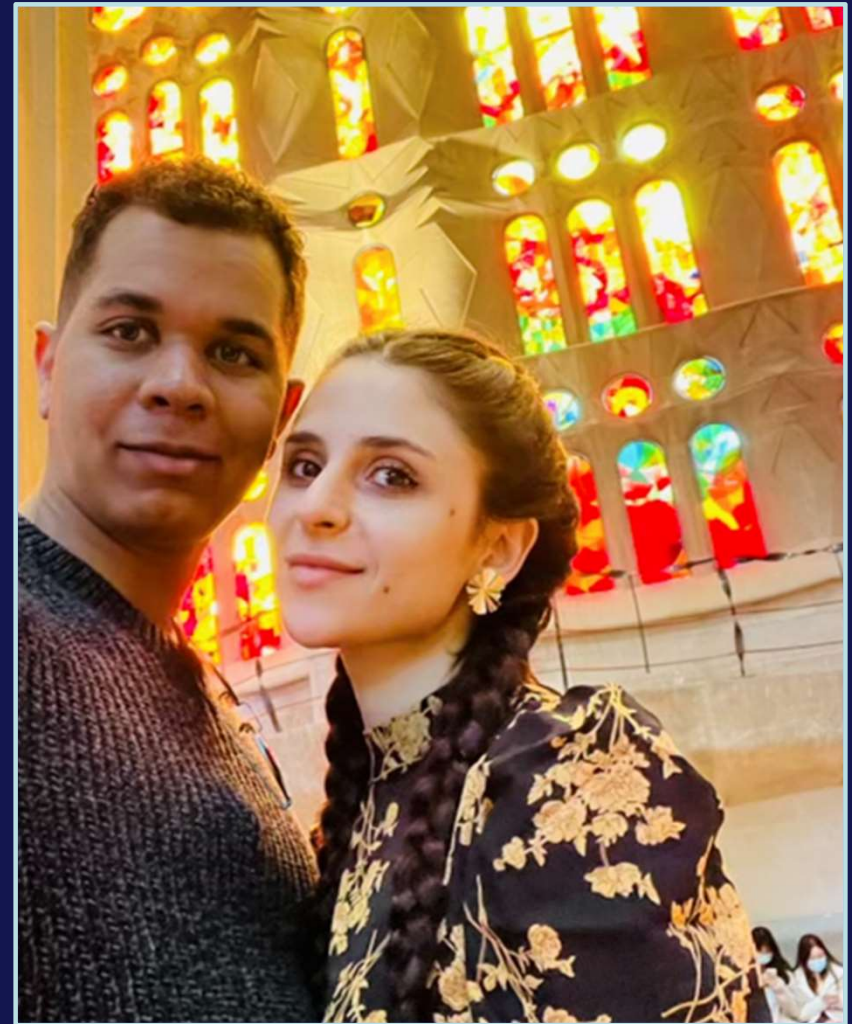
Class of 2024

Graduate: New York Medical College

Undergraduate: Hamilton College



“Ophthalmology residency training has been an exhilarating journey. Our resident-run clinics at Georgetown/Washington Hospital Center are two of the busiest eye clinics in the DC area. We have the privilege to care for patients from diverse cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds. We are exposed to the entire spectrum of ophthalmic disease. Working with our patients has deepened my passion for this field, constantly fueling my thirst for knowledge. The program's emphasis on autonomy has empowered me to grow both personally and professionally, instilling in me the confidence I need to handle complex cases. Beyond the exceptional learning experience, the camaraderie shared with my supportive colleagues and mentors has created a close-knit family. The people here make every step of this remarkable journey all the more meaningful.”



## Meet the Chiefs:

Narmien Murdock, MD  
Class of 2024

Graduate: Boston Univ. SOM  
Undergraduate: Boston University





Our program offers excellence in education and experience, providing comprehensive, compassionate care to all of our patients. Join us!



MedStar Washington  
Hospital Center



Washington National Eye Center