# 2024-2025 Golden Stethoscope Nomination

**Nominated for:** Golden Stethoscope Award

***Name of Nominee*** Dr. Kia Washington, MD

I'm nominating Dr. Kia Washington for the Golden Stethoscope Award because she's had a major impact on me as both a mentor and a role model. She's an incredibly accomplished surgeon-scientist doing groundbreaking work in reconstructive surgery and transplantation, but what stands out the most is how thoughtful and steady she is in how she mentors.

Over the past year, I've had the chance to work with her both in clinic and on the whole eye transplantation research project. Whether we're discussing data or seeing patients together, she always makes the effort to teach in a way that's direct, honest, and respectful. She pushes me to think critically, but also trusts me to take ownership of my work. That kind of mentorship has helped me build confidence in both research and clinical spaces.

More than anything, Dr. Washington has shown me that it's possible to be both a surgeon and a scientist — and what that life can actually look like. Watching how she navigates both roles with clarity and purpose has been incredibly motivating, and has made me really feel like I belong on this path too.

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