

ALLISON KUFTA

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CONTACT INFORMATION

E-mail: akufta2@uic.edu

EDUCATION

2022 – Present University of Illinois of Chicago College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, Doctor of Medicine, Expected Graduation May 2026

2017 – 2020 Truman State University, Biology, Kirksville, Missouri, Bachelor of Science
Summa Cum Laude

HONORS AND AWARDS

2024 Honorable Mention at University of Illinois College of Medicine Research Forum for for Intrastromal injection versus subconjunctival injection of human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells in a mouse model of limbal stem cell deficiency

2023 First-Place Winner of MedMic’s Summer 2023 Visual Arts Contest

2023 Blue Space Gallery Wild & Free International Art Competition Finalist

2020 Biorender Visual Abstract Semi-Finalist

2019 Phi Beta Kappa, Truman State University, Kirksville Missouri

2018 Adobe Project 1314 + AIGA Design Contest Finalist

2017 John Kirk Memorial Scholarship, Truman State University, Kirksville Missouri

2017 Pipefitter’s Local 597 Scholarship, Chicago, Illinois

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2023 – Present Member, American Academy of Ophthalmology
2023 – Present Member, YoungMD Connect
2023 – Present Member, Women in Ophthalmology
2022 – Present Member, America Medical Women’s Association
2022 – Present Member, American Medical Association

RESEARCH

- 2023 – Present Craig Medical Student Summer Fellow and Research Assistant, Dr. Ali R. Djalilian, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Chicago, Illinois
- Conducted an experiment using a murine animal model–Comparison of the Wound Healing Effects of Intrastromal Injection of Mesenchymal Stem Cells Derived from Human Cornea and Bone Marrow. Project report and proposal selected as an exemplar for following years.
 - Assisted in the development of IRB for Keratoconus and Keratitis Registry Projects
- 2023 – Present Research Assistant, Dr. Ann Van Tran, MD, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Chicago, Illinois
- Collaborated on the creation of a database of patients with thyroid eye disease.
 - Hand measured images to be used in training a machine learning algorithm
- 2021 – 2022 Clinical Research Intern and Surgical Observership, Dr. Benjamin Domb, MD, American Hip Institute, Des Plaines, Illinois
- Developed programs to automate operative report creation and research data collection
 - Worked as a scribe and medical assistant in clinic in addition to extensive surgical observation
 - Collaborated with physicians and colleagues on several manuscripts and presentations
- 2010 Undergraduate Research, Clayton Dillavou, MS, Department of Biology, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri
- Conducted research on various strains of fungi to isolate high cellulase producers
 - I participated in spore preparation, inoculation, staining, and scientific photography

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

Submitted

Mirzaei A, Djalilian AR, Sefidan BB, Shahriari M, Cheraqqour K, Ghasemmi M, **Kufta AY**, Soleimani M. Exploring Ocular Transmission Potential of SARS-CoV-2: A Concise Review. Middle Eastern Journal of Ophthalmology.

Accepted

Domb BG, **Kufta AY**, Harris WT, Sebtian PW, Perez–Padilla PA. Sex–Based Differences in Arthroscopic Treatment of Femoroacetabular Impingement: 10– Year Outcomes with a Nested Propensity–Matched Comparison. American Journal of Sports Medicine.

Published

Kufta AY. An Artist's Perspective. YoungMDconnect. Published online March 2024.
<https://youngmdconnect.com/articles/2024-mar/an-artists-perspective>.

Maldonado DR, **Kufta AY**, Krych AJ, et al. Primary Hip Arthroscopy for Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome in Adolescents Reported Excellent Outcomes and High Clinical Benefit Achievement Rates at a Minimum 2-Year Follow-Up. A Multi-center Analysis. *Arthroscopy: The Journal of Arthroscopic & Related Surgery*. Published online December 2022:S0749806322007642. doi:10.1016/j.arthro.2022.11.020

Kufta AY, Maldonado DR, Go CC, Perez-Padilla PA, Domb BG. Hip Arthroscopy Reimbursement Fell by 16.6% on Average Between 2011 and 2022. *Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine, Rehabilitation*. Published online December 2022. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.asmr.2022.10.009>

Presentations

Oral Presentations

Kufta AY, Cheraqpour K, Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, Massoumi H, Ashraf MJ, Koganti R, Ghassemi M, Anwar KN, Jalilian E, Djalilian A. The Role of Mesenchymal Stem/Stromal Cells in Corneal Wound Healing: A Comparative Study of Different Sources and Delivery Routes, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting, May 2024.

Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, **Kufta AY**, Djalilian A. Finding the Most Accurate Lens Power Calculation Formulas for Phacomorphic Glaucoma Patients. American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Annual Meeting. April 2024.

Kufta AY, Baharnoori SM, Soleimani M, Djalilian A. Comparison of the Wound Healing Effects of Intrastromal Injection of Mesenchymal Stem Cells Derived from Human Cornea and Bone Marrow. University of Illinois College of Medicine Research Forum. January 2024.

Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, **Kufta AY**, Jalilian E, Massoumi H, Djalilian A. Intrastromal injection versus subconjunctival injection of human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells in a mouse model of limbal stem cell deficiency. University of Illinois College of Medicine Research Forum. January 2024.

Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, **Kufta AY***, Arabpour Z, Masoumi A, Djalilian A. Increased rate of infectious keratitis after PRK in the COVID-19 era: the possible role of face masks. American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California. November 2023.

* Presented on the behalf of Soleimani M.

Poster Presentations

Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, **Kufta AY**, Djalilian A. Intrastromal Injection Versus Subconjunctival Injection of Human Bone Marrow-Derived Mesenchymal Stem Cells in a Mouse Model. American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Annual Meeting. April 2024.

Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, **Kufta AY**, Djalilian A. Clinical Features, Risk Factors, and Management of Candida Keratitis. American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery Annual Meeting. April 2024.

Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, **Kufta AY**, Djalilian A. Clinical Features, Risk factors and Management of Candida Keratitis. American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California. November 2023.

Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, **Kufta AY**, Habel S, Djalilian A. Persistent Corneal Epithelial Defect; Prevalence, Causes and Prognosis. American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting. San Francisco, California. November 2023.

Domb BG, Maldonado DR, **Kufta AY**, et al. Primary Hip Arthroscopy for Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome in Adolescents Improves Outcomes and Clinical Benefit Achievement Rates at Short-Term Follow-Up. A Multi-center Analysis. Poster Presentation. Eastern Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting. Charleston, South Carolina. October 2023.

Padilla P, **Kufta AY**, Paraschos OA, Sabetian PW, Harris T, Domb BG. Sex Based Differences in Arthroscopic Treatment of Femoroacetabular Impingement: 10-Year Outcomes with a Nested Propensity-Matched Comparison. Podium Presentation. Mid-American Orthopaedic Association Annual Meeting. Miramar Beach, Florida. April 2023.

Kufta AY, Xiao C, Wang D. Ocular Manifestations of Marfan's Syndrome. Poster Presentation. University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine Mentors Program Poster Symposium. Chicago, Illinois. March 2023.

Maldonado DR, **Kufta AY**, Go CC, Padilla P, Lall AC, Domb BG. Hip Arthroscopy Reimbursement Fell by 16.6% on Average Between 2011 and 2022. Poster Presentation. International Society of Hip Arthroscopy (ISHA) Annual Meeting. Glasgow, Scotland. October 2022.

Kufta, AY. Progression of Parkinson's Disease in the Substantia Nigra. Poster Presentation. Biorender Visual Abstract Contest. Online, <https://app.biorender.com/profile/akufta/templates/5fc9738fff8c1c00a4226b2f>. April 2020.

Kufta AY, Andrews K, Sempertegui CD, Dillavou CL. Examination of Cellulase Gene Expression in Various Fungal Species for the Improvement of Biofuel Production. Poster Presentation. Truman State University Student Research Conference. Kirksville, Missouri. April 2019.

Paintings

Kufta AY. Cover Art – Galaxy Eye. 2024, The Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary One Vision 2022-2023 Annual Report, October 2023.

Kufta AY. Cardiac Kintsugi. 2023, Private collection. MedMic, August 2023, <https://medmic.com/cardiac-kinstugi/>

Kufta, AY. Seasonal Change. 2021, Private collection. The Sheepshead Review, Spring 2021, UW-Green Bay, p. 88.

CLINICAL SERVICE

2018 – 2020	Cicero Medical Clinical San Lazaro, Cicero, Illinois, Family Medicine Scribe and Medical Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted in outpatient procedures as a medical assistant as well as worked as a scribeImproved workflow by implementing templates and created patient education documents in English and Spanish
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ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

2024 – Present	Real World Ophthalmology, Warrenville, Illinois, Graphic Design and Educational Team <ul style="list-style-type: none">Designed posters and graphic design materials for various conferences including ARVO and ASCRS 2024
2024 – Present	MedMic, Online Publication, Visual Arts Editor

- Create and edit articles for MedMic.com
- 2022 – 2024 American Medical Women’s Association, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, President, Social Media Chair, local chapter
- Advocated for women’s advancement in medicine and science and brought awareness through workshops and social media campaigns
 - Coordinated events for medical students to interact with successful physicians and residents
 - Hosted a domestic violence workshop, sticker fundraiser sale to benefit a local women’s shelter, and a mentorship panel
 - Mentored one student one on one
- 2022 – 2024 Urban Health Program, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, Team Leader for UHP Mini Health Professions Program
- Mentored and prepared activities for a successful pilot program designed to expose underrepresented middle school students to various health professions
- 2013 –Present Freelance Art Business, Founder, Lyons, Illinois
- Coded and designed a website to share art resources as well as to sell personal artwork
 - Grown into a community and business with over 40,000 followers on social media
 - Coded tools to generate vision boards, ideas, color palettes with Javascript and HTML

TEACHING SERVICE

- 2020 Department of Biology, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri Teaching Assistant
- Prepared labs and taught undergraduate students in a cadaver-based anatomy lab
 - Created an extensive resource guide to students when COVID transitioned the class to virtual format

INTERESTS

Long-distance running

- 2022 Chicago Spring Half Marathon
- 2019 Chicago Marathon and raised \$1,850 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
- 2019 Chicago Spring Half and Hospital Hill Half Marathon in Kansas City

Art – digital (Procreate) and traditional (Acrylic, watercolor, graphite, colored pencil)

- Freelance artist – medical illustration, pet portrait commissions, and prints. Paintings viewable at the website I designed <https://allisonkufta.com>
- Community volunteer for Art While Apart charity – 7 portraits donated