

ALLISON KUFTA

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<https://allisonkufta.com>

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 <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025	2025 AMA Foundation Illinois Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship, American Medical Association (\$10,000 for rising M4s)
2025	Arrie and Estelle Johnson Bamberger Scholarship, University of Illinois College of Medicine - Chicago (\$2,500 merit-based scholarship for rising M4s)
2025	Silver Scalpel Award for Surgery Clerkship (99 th percentile on shelf and clinical honors)
2025	Blue Koi Art Gallery Wild and Tamed Art Competition Honorable Mention
2024	Camelback Gallery All Animals 2024 Art Awards Contest Finalist
2024	Honorable Mention at University of Illinois College of Medicine Research Forum for Intrastromal injection versus subconjunctival injection of human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells in a mouse model of limbal stem cell deficiency
2023	Health Professions Student Council Research Travel Grant (\$500)
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 (Awarded to top 5% applicants, full tuition merit scholarship)
2017	Pipefitter's Local 597 James Buchanan Scholarship Fund, Chicago, Illinois (\$5,000 merit scholarship)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

2024 – Present Member, The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology
2024 – Present Member, The American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery
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

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

Submitted

Kufta AY, Djalilian, AR. Enhancing Patient Education With AI: A Readability Analysis of AI-Generated Versus American Academy of Ophthalmology Online Patient Education Materials. *The Middle Eastern Journal of Ophthalmology*.

Published

Domb BG, **Kufta AY**, Kingham YE, Sabetian PW, Harris WT, Perez-Padilla PA. Sex-Based Differences in the Arthroscopic Treatment of Femoroacetabular Impingement Syndrome: 10-Year Outcomes With a Nested Propensity-Matched Comparison. *The American Journal of Sports Medicine*. Published online January 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03635465241302806>.

Mirzaei A, Djalilian AR, Sefidan BB, Shahriari M, Cheraqpour K, Ghasemmi M, **Kufta AY**, Soleimani M. Exploring Ocular Transmission Potential of SARS-CoV-2: A Concise Review. *Journal of Current Ophthalmology*. Published online January 2025. https://doi.org/10.4103/joco.joco_35_24.

Carbone A, Harris WT, McCarrol TR, **Kufta AY**, Walsh EG, Domb BG. Percutaneous Intraarticular Peripheral Access (PIPA) Technique for Hip Arthroscopy. *Arthroscopy: The Journal of Arthroscopic & Related Surgery*. Published online September 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eats.2024.103232>.

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>

Editorials

Kufta A, Nijm LM. Real World Ophthalmology Corner: Transitioning From Resident to Leader. *Ophthalmol Manag*. 2025 Jun;29(6):24.

Kufta A. Think Fast! The Next Minutes Can Make or Break Your Early Career. Published online October 2024 <https://www.realworldophthalmology.com/rwoneflash/dreampractice-cy6gb-dzre5>.

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

Presentations

Oral Presentations, Lectures, and Seminars

Kufta AY. Student Surgical Society Surgery Clerkship Panel, University of Illinois College of Medicine. Chicago, IL. November 2024.

Nahass GR, Yazdanpanah G, Cheung M, Palacios A, Diaz M, **Kufta A**, Song A, Heinze K, Hubschman S, Purnell C, Setabutr P, Darvin Y. Periorbital Distance Prediction and Disease Classification of Oculoplastic Images Using Deep Learning, Asia Pacific Society of Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery 2024 Fall Scientific Symposium. Seoul, Korea. November 2024.

Kufta AY. Step 1 Prep, Role Strain, University of Illinois College of Medicine Chicago Physician House Advising Seminar. Chicago, IL. October 2024

Panelist on M3 Surgery Rotations Panel, University of Illinois College of Medicine Chicago Student Surgical Society. Chicago, IL. October 2024

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. Seattle, Washington. 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. Boston, Massachusetts. 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. Chicago, Illinois. 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. Chicago, Illinois. 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.

Maldonado DR, **Kufta AY**, Krych A, Levy Bruce, Okoroha K, Gonzalez KC, Domb BG 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. Podium Presentation. International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery, and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine (ISAKOS) Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts. June 2023.

Maldonado DR, **Kufta AY**, Krych AJ, Levy BA, Okoroha KR, Gonzalez KC, Domb BG. Primary Hip Arthroscopy for Femoroacetabular Impingement in Adolescents had High Clinical Benefit. Podium Presentation. Arthroscopy Association of North America (AANA) Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana. May 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.

Poster Presentations

Kufta A, Djalilian AR. Enhancing Corneal Patient Education Through AI Chatbots: A Readability Analysis of AI-Generated Materials Versus American Academy of Ophthalmology Online Patient Education Materials. University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine Research Forum. Chicago, Illinois. February 2025.

Soleimani M, Sebbat AM, Esmaili K, Baharnoori, M, **Kufta AY**, Mohammadi SF, Cheung AY, Yousefi S, Djalilian A R. Advancing Ocular Health: AI-Driven Diagnosis and Subtype Discrimination in Microbial Keratitis Management. American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting. Chicago, October 2024.

Nahass GR, Yazdanpanah G, Cheung M, Palacios A, Diaz M, **Kufta A**, Song A, Heinze K, Hubschman S, Purnell C, Setabutr P, Darvin Y. Improvement in Deep Learning Algorithms of Orbital Pathology With Periorbital Measurements and Early Disease Classification. American Academy of Ophthalmology Annual Meeting. Chicago, October 2024.

Soleimani M, Rahdar A, Esmaili K, Cheraqpour K, Baharnoori M, **Kufta A**, Mohammadi SF, Cheung A, Yousefi S, Djalilian A. AI-Assisted Diagnosis and Subtype Differentiation of Microbial Keratitis: One Step Forward to Mitigate Health Disparities. Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology Annual Meeting. Seattle, Washington. May 2024.

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. Seattle, Washington. 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. Boston, Massachusetts. 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**, Habeel 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.

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.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023 – Present	Quality Improvement Research Project, Co-Lead, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investigating the impact of gender and racial discordance on grading equity during the clinical phase of medical student training
2023 – Present	Research Assistant, Craig Medical Student Summer Fellow, Dr. Ali R. Djalilian, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Chicago, Illinois <ul style="list-style-type: none">First author project on utilizing large language models to better improve accessibility for patient education materials

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First author project studying dupilumab associated ocular surface disease and the creation of a management algorithm • 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 year • Involved in the development of IRB for Keratoconus and Keratitis Registry Projects • Collaborated on various projects and prepared conference presentations
2023 – Present	<p>Research Assistant, Dr. Ann Van Tran, MD, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, Chicago, Illinois</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>Clinical Research Intern and Surgical Observership, Dr. Benjamin Domb, MD, American Hip Institute, Des Plaines, Illinois</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed programs to automate operative report creation, CPT billing templates, and research data collection • Collaborated with physicians and colleagues on several manuscripts and presentations • Worked as a scribe and medical assistant in clinic and the OR, in addition to extensive surgical observation

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2024 – Present	<p>Eye Sustain, Clinical Sustainability Co-Lead, Advocacy Team,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated on projects including workbooks and the Ophthalmology Sustainability Pledge • Designed artwork for project
2023 – Present	<p>Real World Ophthalmology, Warrenville, Illinois, Graphic Design and Educational Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborated with Dr. Nijm and team to design posters, physical merchandise, and other various graphic design materials for both RWO events and at various conferences including ARVO and ASCRS • Highly involved in the creation of an interactive online conference platform with hand painted various assets and design for three major events–2024 Tell Me Your Secrets, 2024 Top Ten Things You Wished You Knew Sooner, 2025 Tell Me Your Secrets • Created 10 Stump the Surgeon educational cases
2024 – Present	<p>MedMic, Online Publication, Visual Arts Editor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created and edited articles for MedMic.com
2023 – Present	<p>Painter for the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary. Painted custom painting for the One Vision Annual Report and donated two pieces for auction at the annual Eye Ball event, raising approximately \$650 to further program initiatives</p>

2022 – 2024	<p>American Medical Women’s Association, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, President, Social Media Chair, local chapter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
2022 – Present	<p>Clinical Volunteering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in clinic shifts for the Community Health Center Ophthalmology clinic, Mobile Migrant Health Care Team, and at the Chicago Half-Marathon with NLVS.
2022 – Present	<p>Mentored a variety of undergraduate and younger medical students throughout medical school with personalized, one on one guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented on a Step 1 preparation panel for M2s and facilitated physician house advisor small groups • In addition to informal mentoring, I participated in the College of Medicine’s mentoring program, gUIde, and American Medical Women’s Association mentoring programs
2022 – 2024	<p>Urban Health Program, University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois, Team Leader for UHP Mini Health Professions Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentored and designed activities for a successful pilot program designed to expose underrepresented middle school students to various health professions • Presented on health care professions and answered questions for high school students
2020	<p>Department of Biology, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri Teaching Assistant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepared labs and taught undergraduate students in a cadaver-based anatomy lab • Created an extensive resource guide for students when COVID transitioned the class to virtual format
2018 – 2020	<p>Cicero Medical Clinical San Lazaro, Cicero, Illinois, Family Medicine Scribe and Medical Assistant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted in outpatient procedures as a medical assistant as well as worked as a scribe • Improved workflow by implementing templates and created patient education documents in English and Spanish
2013 – Present	<p>Freelance Art Business, Founder, Lyons, Illinois</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coded and designed websites to share art resources to promote free art education as well as a personal artwork portfolio • Created an online community and business with over 45,000 followers on social media

- Coded tools to generate vision boards, ideas, color palettes with Javascript and HTML

INTERESTS & Hobbies

Art – digital (Procreate) and traditional (acrylic, watercolor, graphite, colored pencil), photography, web design

- Paintings viewable at the portfolio and professional website I designed <https://allisonkufta.com>
- Community volunteer for Art While Apart charity
8 detailed, realistic pet portraits donated

Published work

Kufta, AY. *Galaxy Eye*. 2024, Private collection. The Ophthalmologist #109, September/October 2024, https://theophthalmologist.com/fileadmin/top/pdf/2024/1024_TOP_Sept_Oct_EU.pdf.

Kufta, AY. *Golden Hour*. 2023, Private Collection. Reed Magazine, May 2024, <https://www.reedmag.org/156-art>.

Kufta AY. *Kintsugi – Hips*. 2024, Private collection. Tulane University School of Medicine Lagniappe Vol 9, May 2024, <https://heyzone.com/flip-book/5744144cc2.html>.

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. *Wildest Dreams*. 2022, Private collection. HuMed Art Exhibit, Spring 2023, University of Illinois College of Medicine.

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

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

Spending time outdoors

Finding the best lattes in town, home latte art