

ALLISON KUFTA

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<https://allisonkufta.com>

EDUCATION

2022 – Present	University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine, 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	Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine
2025	Gold Humanism Honor Society, University of Illinois Chicago College of Medicine
2025	2025 AMA Foundation Illinois Physicians of Tomorrow Scholarship, American Medical Association <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$10,000 merit-based scholarship for rising M4s
2025	Arrie and Estelle Johnson Bamberger Scholarship, University of Illinois College of Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$2,500 merit-based scholarship for rising M4s
2025	Silver Scalpel Award for Surgery Clerkship <ul style="list-style-type: none">>95th percentile (99th) 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 for the project: <i>Intrastromal injection versus subconjunctival injection of human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells in a mouse model of limbal stem cell deficiency</i> , University of Illinois College of Medicine Research Forum
2023	Health Professions Student Council Research Travel Grant, University of Illinois College of Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$500
2023	First-Place Winner of MedMic's Summer 2023 Visual Arts Contest
2023	Blue Space Gallery Wild & Free International Art Competition Finalist
2020	President's List, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri <ul style="list-style-type: none">Acknowledges students with 4.0 GPA, attained this honor roll designation for all semesters in college
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Awarded to top 5% applicants, full tuition merit scholarship
2017	Pipefitter's Local 597 James Buchanan Scholarship Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none">\$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 ARR, 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 AY, Nijm LM. Real World Ophthalmology Corner: Transitioning From Resident to Leader. *Ophthalmol Manag*. 2025 Jun;29(6):24.

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

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

Presentations

Lectures, and Seminars

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

Oral presentations

Nahass GR, Yazdanpanah G, Cheung M, Palacios A, Diaz M, **Kufta AY**, 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, Cheraqpour K, Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, Massoumi H, Ashraf MJ, Koganti R, Ghassemi M, Anwar KN, Jalilian E, Djalilian AR. 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 AR. 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 AR. 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 AR. 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 AR. 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 BA, 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 AY, Djalilian ARR 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 College of Medicine Research Forum. Chicago, Illinois. February 2025.

Soleimani M, Sebhat AM, Esmaili K, Baharnoori, M, **Kufta AY**, Mohammadi SF, Cheung AY, Yousefi S, Djalilian ARR. 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 AY**, 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 AY**, Mohammadi SF, Cheung A, Yousefi S, Djalilian AR. 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 AR. 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. Boston, Massachusetts. April 2024.

Soleimani M, Baharnoori SM, **Kufta AY**, Djalilian AR 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 AR. 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 AR. 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 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

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| 2025- Present | Dr. William F. Mieler, University of Illinois Chicago <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literature review and project structure complete for a retrospective study on early-onset orbital compartment syndrome (OCS) within 48 hours following open-globe orbital injury and subsequent repair |
| 2023 – Present | Co-Lead, Quality Improvement Research Project, University of Illinois Chicago <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 | Dr. Ali R. Djalilian, University of Illinois Chicago <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First author project on utilizing large language models to better improve accessibility for patient education materials• 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<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 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 – 2024 | Dr. Ann Tran, MD, University of Illinois Chicago <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 | Dr. Benjamin Domb, MD, American Hip Institute <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Idea conception, data collection and analysis, multi-center collaboration, created automation and programs to improve research workflows, developed detailed onboarding documentation• Developed programs to automate operative report creation, CPT billing templates, and research data collection• Worked as a scribe and medical assistant in clinic and the OR, in addition to extensive surgical observation |

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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|----------------|---|
| 2024 – Present | Clinical Sustainability Co-Lead, Advocacy Team, Eye Sustain, Global <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborated on projects including workbooks and the Ophthalmology Sustainability Pledge• Designed artwork for projects |
| 2023 – Present | Educational Team, Graphic Design, Real World Ophthalmology, Warrenville, Illinois <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
 - Now being published online, created over 40 pages of educational content including 15 educational case write-ups, 10 board-style multiple choice questions and explanations during my self-designed elective
 - Redesigned patient handouts to facilitate patient understanding of various ophthalmic surgical procedures
- 2023 – Present Ophthalmology Painter, University of Illinois Chicago
- Donated a custom painting for the cover of the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary One Vision Annual Report for 2022-2023
 - Donated two pieces of art for auction at the annual Eye Ball event in 2024, raising approximately \$650 to further Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary initiatives
- 2022 – Present Clinical Volunteer, Multiple Organizations
- Participated in clinic shifts for the Community Health Center Ophthalmology clinic, Mobile Migrant Health Care Team, and at the Chicago Half-Marathon with New Life Volunteering Society
 - Took history and performed clinical assessments
 - Assisted residents and fellows in caring for underserved patients with barriers to healthcare access and follow up
- 2022 – Present Mentor, Multiple Organizations
- Mentored a variety of undergraduate and younger medical students throughout medical school with personalized, one on one guidance
 - Presented on a Step 1 preparation panel for M2s, surgery clerkship advice panel, and facilitated physician house advisor small groups
 - In addition to informal mentoring, volunteered to participate in the College of Medicine’s mentoring program, gUIde, and American Medical Women’s Association mentoring programs
 - During COVID19, volunteered with HandsOn Suburban Chicago online mentoring and tutoring program with 6th graders in an underserved school district. In addition to helping them with coursework, each week I led a session on developing skills as well as addressing socioemotional health
 - Mentor a variety of premedical and medical students on a free online mentorship community
 - Maintain an updated list of free resources and concise guides as part of my professional portfolio website
- 2022 – 2024 President, Social Media Chair, American Medical Women’s Association, University of Illinois College of Medicine
- 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, 2024	<p>Team Leader for Urban Health Program's Mini Health Professions Program, University of Illinois College of Medicine</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 over 8 sessions • Presented on health care professions and answered questions for high school students
2020	<p>Teaching Assistant, Department of Biology, Truman State University</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>Family Medicine Scribe and Medical Assistant, Cicero Medical Clinical San Lazaro</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>Founder, Online Art Community and Resources Platform, Online</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 free tools to generate vision boards, ideas, color palettes with Javascript and HTML

INTERESTS & Hobbies

Published work

Kufta AY. *Kintsugi Series*. 2025, Private collection. HuMed Art Exhibit, Spring 2025, University of Illinois College of Medicine.

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-kintsugi>.

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.

Art (<https://allisonkufta.com>), long-distance running (3 half marathons and 1 full marathon raising \$1,850 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital), Spending time outdoors, latte connoisseur