

## **Emerging Advocate Award Application Sample**

**Please provide details on specific advocacy activities you've been involved in, including, where applicable, quantitative metrics that demonstrate their reach and impact. Feel free to use the fields below to provide evidence of these efforts such as pictures, summaries, Advocacy Day or Hill Day materials, etc.**

In 2020, I participated in advocacy efforts by meeting with congressional staffers during ARVO Capitol Hill Day (Virtual). This opportunity allowed me to communicate the importance of funding for ophthalmology and vision research directly to policymakers, advocating for vision-related initiatives at the national level.

Additionally, I launched a social media platform called @opht20s on X (formerly Twitter) in 2017 to share insights and advancements in ophthalmology. In 2023, the platform reached over half a million impressions, serving as a key resource for disseminating scientific information and fostering public understanding of eye health research.

I was a mentor scientist for Chat with a Scientist program. I had the opportunity to inspire high school students to delve into the fields of science and medicine. By sharing my experiences and insights, I sought to ignite a passion for research and discovery in the next generation, fostering their scientific curiosity and expanding their knowledge.

Moreover, I engaged in glaucoma awareness campaigns during World Glaucoma Week, aimed at educating the public about the importance of eye health, regular check-ups, and early detection. These efforts were particularly focused on communities with limited access to such information.

These varied advocacy activities reflect a comprehensive approach to promoting ophthalmology and vision sciences, from direct policymaker engagement to leveraging media and public outreach. Collectively, these experiences demonstrate my commitment to advancing the field of ophthalmology through strategic and impactful advocacy efforts.

**Please describe how you plan to integrate advocacy into your future work**

I plan to actively engage with policymakers and healthcare leaders to advocate for increased funding and resources for eye and vision research. By organizing briefings,

participating in Capitol Hill Days, and collaborating with professional organizations, I aim to ensure that the importance of vision research is recognized at both the state and federal levels. Additionally, I will focus on creating educational materials and campaigns to raise awareness about key eye health issues and their impact on public health, helping to inform evidence-based policy decisions.

Leveraging the power of social media and digital content, I will develop and share accessible resources on eye health, vision science advancements, and the importance of early detection and treatment of eye diseases. By using platforms like Twitter, LinkedIn, and blogs, I aim to engage a wider audience—including the public, patients, and healthcare providers—to foster a greater understanding of the impact of vision science on daily life and overall well-being. This digital outreach will be complemented by partnerships with eye health organizations to amplify advocacy messages and expand the reach of educational content.