

April 12, 2019

Ryerson University
Faculty of Science
Dean's Research Fund
Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Award

To the Awards Committee:

This letter is to support the application of Dr. Suzan Farghang Sardroodi to the FOS Dean's Research Fund Travel Award for Postdoctoral Fellows.

Suzan is completing her first year as a postdoctoral fellow in my lab here in the Mathematics department at Ryerson. She has been invited to give a research talk at a mini-symposium of the annual meeting of the Society of Mathematical Biology, held in Montreal this coming July. This meeting is one of the premier conferences of the mathematical biology field, and will provide an excellent opportunity for Suzan to network with other researchers, become exposed to other areas of research in our field, and to participate in a mentorship program offered during the conference.

Suzan has been working on a mathematical model for cancer cachexia. She has developed a framework to explore potential causative mechanisms underlying the cancer-induced loss of skeletal muscle in advanced stages of cancer. This is a novel approach to studying cancer cachexia, as existing models focus purely on metabolic balances. Suzan has worked hard to incorporate molecular mechanisms into the mathematical formulations and to parameterize the model using experimental data.

Suzan will benefit greatly from the opportunity to attend the conference, for the reasons mentioned above related to exposure and mentoring. She will also gain the invaluable experience of presenting her work in a 25 minute research talk, and of defending her work during the 5 minute question period.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Wilkie, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Mathematics
Ryerson University