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To: The Endourological Society

Object: Endourological Society Summer Scholarship, Final Report

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Dear Endourological Society,

 I would like to thank you for awarding me the Endourological Society Summer Scholarship. As an aspiring surgeon-scientist, this award has allowed me to dedicate a summer to endourological research under the supervision and inestimable mentorship of Dr. Naeem Bhojani. This experience has been extremely beneficial for my academic growth by providing me the opportunity to receive mentorship, develop new skills, and mature as a researcher.

Over the course of the summer, Dr. Naeem Bhojani, clinician-scholar at the Université de Montréal, and I submitted 4 articles to peer-review journals (2 accepted, 2 in review) and developed 4 research proposals (all pending IRB approval). Submitted projects included studies on Aquablation’s volume-independence as well as the cost and quality of inpatient vs. ambulatory bladder outlet obstruction surgery. Research proposals included a survey evaluating the acceptability of telemedicine in the province of Quebec, a trial of telemedicine follow-up for ureteroscopy patients, the application of machine learning algorithms for nephrolithiasis patients, and the study of the role of apical tissue in the preservation of ejaculatory function following BPH surgery.

These projects have allowed me to refine my quantitative analysis skills and learn new methods. For example, I worked with national, trial and institutional databases. This work provided me with insight into the strengths and weaknesses of each type of data source. I also played a lead role in the management of projects and the writing of manuscripts. Through this work, I familiarized myself with the endourological literature and gained an appreciation for the importance of collaborative work that goes beyond our immediate team and institution.

While these outputs and learning showed the best of what research has to offer, the summer scholarship has also exposed me to the many challenges of academic endeavors. Our initial proposal looking at the use of a more palatable form of urea in patients with recurring kidney stones was delayed. While IRB approval was granted well in advance of the start of the summer scholarship, Health Canada approval never came despite submissions per their deadlines for a summer start.

While this was sometimes frustrating, it might have a been a blessing in disguise. As we were waiting for approval by Health Canada, I was also no longer bound by a single project. With Dr. Bhojani’s guidance, I was invited to generate new research ideas and dedicate my time to other available projects which enabled me to develop autonomy and leadership as a researcher. Thanks to the scholarship, I was supported to apply my previous experiences, both academic and non-academic, to research questions that could advance endourological care delivery. As I look back at the great summer I spent as an Endourological Society scholar, I am sincerely grateful to Dr. Bhojani and the Endourological Society for trusting me with the Endourological Society Summer Scholarship. It has impacted my career path in many ways—and I hope to one day support other aspiring scientists in the same fashion. Finally, I would also like to acknowledge our many collaborators, including Drs. Zorn, Friedlander, and Trinh for their continued support.

**David-Dan Nguyen**

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