

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter as a testimony to Dr. Gabor Fichtinger's merit for the "Excellence in Graduate Supervision" award. His suitability for this award stems from involvement in world-class research work and immersion into the research community experienced by his students. These opportunities are made possible through the Laboratory for Percutaneous Surgery, also called the Perk Lab, which Prof. Fichtinger has established in Queen's University's School of Computing.

I began my Master's of Computing in Prof. Fichtinger's Perk Lab in September 2015, after completing an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering. Despite the obstacles in undertaking a Master's in a new discipline, Dr. Fichtinger was eager to help me navigate the departmental bureaucracy and provide an opportunity to pursue my interests in computer science. The scale of the Perk Lab means that there are always multiple projects in the works. As the lab's name suggests, the projects typically relate to minimally invasive surgical procedures, or computer assisted medicine generally. I was able to choose one in ultrasound image processing, allowing me to explore new subjects which had drawn me to the field, rather than being constrained to familiar mechanical engineering work.

Prof. Fichtinger's long-time involvement and renown in computer assisted medicine connect his students with numerous opportunities to present their research to the greater community. He encourages undergraduate and graduate students alike to submit papers to conferences and journals. The large number of students working in the lab does not lower publication quality standards; the lab employs a senior research staff, including an engineer and a physician, whose experience in research and industry provide indispensable support for student projects and publications. The title of my latest conference work was *Scoliosis visualization using transverse process landmarks*, a poster presented at the Imaging Network of Ontario's annual conference. This poster and an earlier conference paper on my spine visualization work being accepted for publication were just two of many successful works to come from the Perk Lab this year.

In summary, Prof. Fichtinger's devotion to maintaining a productive, cutting-edge research lab benefits his students in ways which reflect his deservingness for the "Excellence in Graduate Supervision" award. The opportunities to pursue research interests in state of the art applications which Prof. Fichtinger provides to students, and the quality of research work he supervises, makes him an excellent candidate for the award.

Sincerely,

Ben Church – M.Sc. Candidate

Laboratory for Percutaneous Surgery, School of Computing