To whom it may concern,

It is with great pleasure that I am writing in support of the nomination of Dr. Gabor Fichtinger for the “Promoting Student Inquiry Teaching Award”. His record of student supervision and students’ accomplishments make him a truly deserving candidate for this award.

I first met Prof. Fichtinger in the summer of 2011 when I conducted an undergraduate research project on automatic surgical motion recognition under his supervision. Coming from a background in mathematics, I hesitant about doing a biomedical computing research project; however, Prof. Fichtinger’s infectious enthusiasm for biomedical computing and passion for research quickly made me excited about the project. Throughout, he allowed me to make the project my own by encouraging me to investigate pertinent related questions that piqued my research curiosity, but was always there to support me. By the end of the project, he had guided me to publish the project at a peer-reviewed international conference. This summer, I believe, was essential to my development as a researcher.

Not only does Prof. Fichtinger have great passion for research, but he shows kindness towards his students. This is why I chose to pursue graduate studies with his laboratory group. In fact, it was he who was my biggest advocate for admission into my graduate program despite missing some pre-requisites. Since that first summer, I have continued to benefit immensely from Prof. Fichtinger’s supervision. He has continued to guide my development as a researcher and has afforded me many new research opportunities, including collaborations with clinical experts, international conferences, and international research projects. This has been integral to my career thus far, and will continue to be for my future.

But this experience is not unique to me. In over four years of working with Prof. Fichtinger, I have seen him inspire many graduate, undergraduate, and even high-school students. He has a unique ability to spark research curiosity in students and guide them to tangible research results (e.g. peer-reviewed publication, adoption of technology into clinic, etc.). This is facilitated by the world-class research environment he has assembled, which is replete with cutting-edge technology and post-doctoral and staff researchers.

In summary, Prof. Fichtinger puts above all else the success of his students. This is demonstrated by his unwavering attendance at student and community outreach events, the publication and research records of his students, and the career successes of his students. His ability to get students excited about research and guide them to answer their research questions is what makes him stand out as a supervisor. I whole-heartedly support the nomination of Prof. Fichtinger for the Queen’s University “Promoting Student Inquiry Teaching Award”. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me: 613-329-0566 or [mholden8@cs.queensu.ca](mailto:mholden8@cs.queensu.ca).

Sincerely,

Matthew Holden