Testimonial for Dr. Adrian James

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Arushri Swarup and I am a Master’s student in biomedical engineering at the University of Toronto. Dr. Adrian James is my project supervisor, working on developing tools to facilitate endoscopic ear surgery. I met Dr. James when he supervised this project as my client in an undergraduate engineering design course. He was very approachable and wanted us to learn as much as we could about ear surgery, in order to engineer a tool to help his surgeries. He invited us to observe surgeries in the OR, took the time out of his busy schedule to meet with us and explain the anatomy and surgery, show us the endoscope inside an ear model, and listen to our suggestions. He went above and beyond as a supervisor when he took us to the surgical skills lab to test our tool prototype and connected us to CIGITI, a medical robotics lab at SickKids that gave us the prototyping and fabrication facilities required to be successful in the project. He even listened to us practice our final presentation to ensure we hit all the necessary points.

I enjoyed working with him in undergrad so much that I asked him to be my supervisor for my Master’s project, where I am continuing on the project. Since then, he has taken hours out of every week to sit down with me and teach me about the surgeries, ear anatomy, reading CT scans, etc. I have observed many surgeries in the OR where he is continually teaching me about instrumentation and anatomy. I also observe him training the resident surgeons in the OR so they can practice their surgical skills. His attitude is definitely that of an experienced, knowledgeable and caring teacher.

Apart from his excellent teaching skills and his true caring attitude, he is very knowledgeable in the field of otology and that is evident by the surgical skills course that he organized and led this October where he delivered valuable lectures on endoscopic ear surgery techniques, did a live surgery demonstration for the surgeons who attended the course and assisted them in the surgical skills lab providing guidance insight and sharing his knowledge and experiences. He shared many of his experiences in the OR, including mistakes, so that others did not make the same mistakes. Sharing mistakes is an amazing quality in a surgeon because they would normally be reluctant to share mistakes but he overcomes that mindset and instead shares his mistakes so that others do not make them. He also travels to deliver lectures about otology skills and endoscopic era surgery in particular. He has many publications about endoscopic ear surgery and minimally invasive cochlear implant surgery. He was on a team at SickKids to develop a minimally invasive method for cochlear implant surgery. He has published many papers relating to surgical outcomes, techniques, etc.