



Dr Montserrat Casals Ruiz
Distinguished Researcher
Department of Mathematics
University of the Basque Country
Barrio Sarriena s/n
48940 Leioa, Spain
phone: +34946015296

Bilbao, January 30, 2026

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in strong support of Michael Kopreski's EMS travel grant application to attend the Young Geometric Group Theory conference in Seoul this June. Dr. Kopreski is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of the Basque Country, studying geometric group theory and in particular the mapping class groups of finite and infinite-type objects.

Young Geometric Group Theory (YGGT) is an annual conference aimed at fostering collaboration and mathematical community among early-career researchers in geometric group theory. The conference includes mini-courses and research talks on areas of contemporary interest and activity, as well as opportunities for participants to advertise and discuss their own work. YGGT is in its 14th iteration, and has proven a successful and valuable venue for supporting an international network of geometric group theorists. This year's conference is the first outside of Europe and holds particular value toward establishing research relationships between Asia and Europe.

Dr. Kopreski's research program represents several important directions in contemporary geometric group theory. The pertinence of these topics is apparent in the conference program: three of four mini-course lecturers, and three of five invited speakers, study topics intimately related to Dr. Kopreski's research. As such, the conference offers a tremendous opportunity both for current and future collaboration in his work, and to facilitate a dialogue with the mathematical community most closely aligned with his research interests.

Sincerely,

Dr Montserrat Casals-Ruiz
Distinguished Researcher