

Uniservices House, Room 439 735,

70 Symonds Street Auckland

Phone: +64 9 923 1497  
Email: [wtun899@aucklanduni.ac.nz](mailto:wtun899@aucklanduni.ac.nz)

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To whom it may concern,

I am Yuwen Zhang, a PhD student enrolled in the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (University of Auckland, New Zealand). This is the final year of my PhD. My project is a study using volumetric CT imaging and functional data in a computational model to understand the disease distribution and progression over time of idiopathic pulmonary firbrosis. Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is an aggressive idiopathic interstitial pneumonia, and often occurs in elderly adults. In IPF, fibrosis typically develops preferentially in posterior-basal lung regions, and often co-exists with emphysema. Currently it is not clear how - or whether - the spatial distribution of tissue abnormalities in IPF (including classifications of tissue type) correlate with pulmonary function tests (PFTs) and their change over time. So my current work is to develop a new quantitative tool that integrates data from volumetric imaging, PFTs, and computational models for lung function, to understand differences between IPF and normal older lungs.

My research abstract has been accepted for poster presentation at American Thoracic Society International Conference which will be held in San Diego, US from 18 -23 May 2018. ATS is one of the biggest organizations that supports and promotes excellence in thoracic research. ATS conference has a long history which was founded in 1905, and it has grown to draw some 14,000 physicians, students and scientists from all over the world to share emerging technologies and novel findings. The conference focuses on the latest advances in basic mechanisms underlying thoracic physiology and pathophysiology and clinical applications of newest technologies. Listening to the presentations by other researchers who are working in similar research areas isa great opportunity for me to learn new knowledge and help me come up with new ideas. This will also allow me to build a connection with other researcheres. Moreover, by presenting my poster at ATS conference, I will get the comments and recommendations on my project from researchers who work in lung research but in different aspects from my projects. This will help me to improve my work to make it more realistic and reliable, and help me solving the current limitations of my work.

Here I have brought all the expenses (registration, accommodation, flight etc.) and the funding resources (accepted):

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|  | **Item** | **Cost** |
| **Cost to attend ATS conference** | Registration | UZ$ 415 |
| Accommodation | NZ$ 800 |
| Flight (can be changed based on the departure time) | NZ$ 2000 |
| Visa application | NZ$ 240 |
| Subsistence | NZ$ 120 |
| **Total cost** | | NZ$ 3575 |
| **Accepted/available funds (PRESS account)** | | NZ$ 1875 |
| **Fund required** | | NZ$ 1700 |

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| --- |
| **Accepted Funds** |
| PRESS account (NZ$ ) |
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As I have indicated in the table, I have approved fund from the University of Auckland PRESS account, and now there is NZ$ 3705.00 avaliable in this account. However, I will attend another important conference in Austrilia in March 2018, and have booked the flight tickets and accommodation (NZ$ 533 for registration, NZ$ 570 for accommodation and NZ$ 727 for flight tickets), and these expense will cost from my PreSS account. Therefore, my funding resource will be insufficient (NZ$ 1700 shortage) to cover the total cost to attend ATS conference.

This is the first time I am applying for ABI (Auckland Bioengineering Institute) Funding. I would appreciate it if I am granted with additional financial resources from ABI to help support attendance to ATS conference.

Yours Sincerely

Yuwen Zhang