Hello everyone! My name is Rayan Hassan and I am a student majoring in Computer Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh and I am currently entering my last year of uni starting this upcoming Fall. First and foremost, I would like to thank the SURP organizer for giving me the opportunity to be this year's student representative and give this speech.

Towards the beginning of last semester, I started looking for internships I could be involved in. I was scared on one hand since I hadn't had much experience in the past outside of college, and confused on the other one because it was unclear what field in engineering would suit me best. Although I still haven't gotten all the answers I seek and still want to learn more about various aspects of my major, SURP has exposed me to a world of endless possibilities. Biomedical engineering wasn't necessary on my to-do list, but it definitely is now. I got to learn a lot about robotics used for medical practices and the beauty that is research. From implementing engineering tools and concepts to treat diseases like tumors or infections, to improving medical applications like ultrasound scanning, drug delivery or diagnosis, SURP provided me with a great deal of knowledge.

Although I would have liked to visit Hong Kong and CUHK's beautiful campus, and meet with all the people that helped me throughout this journey, SURP's online delivery was nothing but great. I spent the entirety of this summer in my home country Lebanon, where access to wifi and electricity is limited due to an ongoing financial crisis. Therefore, I was worried that my schedule for working and attending meetings would be severely affected. Not to mention the time difference, which I am sure most of you can relate to. However, this program takes into account all the difficulties faced by remote students and offers a flexible schedule, which helped me overcome most of my problems. Therefore, I am truly thankful for all the professors and concerned individuals for their consideration and effort in making SURP accessible for everyone.

Our experience at CUHK wouldn't have been the same without the assistance of the incredible CUHK researchers. I'd like to give my heartfelt thanks especially to my supervisor Dr. Hongliang Ren, who has been nothing but supportive and encouraging throughout this journey, and I cannot be more grateful. I also want to express my gratitude to the SURP organizer and all who worked in enhancing this experience from organizing a virtual orientation to multiple cultural events that also made this program fun and enjoyable. Not to mention all the lab sessions I was able to participate in which allowed me to learn from other students and see their projects and progress as it was being performed. Finally, all the workshops organized that helped sharpen our communication skills and broaden our understanding of several notions in research. Lastly, I want to congratulate all of you guys for making it to the end! These past 2 months went by very quickly and I hope everyone got to benefit as much as possible. I wish all of you the best in all your future ventures and hope you stay safe and well!