Dear Organizing Committee,

I am a surgical resident from University Hospital Limerick. I have taken this position to gain valuable experience in robotic surgery as it truly is the platform of the future. We are the first public hospital to have the DaVinci robot in Ireland. Our robotic surgery program is now in its 3rd year. Over 400 robotic assisted procedures have been performed by our department of colorectal surgery and our colleagues in the department of urology. I currently work with Mr. Colin Peirce, a Limerick native who learned robotic skills during his fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic. He is one of the youngest attending surgeons in Ireland and is the country lead for robotics. His enthusiasm and knowledge has been paramount to the institution and running of the program here. At the Congress, I am presenting a bibliometric analysis on the top 100 manuscripts on robotic surgery. I undertook this research when starting this position to get a general understanding of the history, current state and future of robotic surgery. I am very eager to meet other young academic surgeons with an interest in robotic surgery at the Congress. I would like to discuss their programs to learn from them and determine ways to improve our program and my own robotic skills. Flying to America will be a financial strain for me. Since the recession following the Celtic Tiger in Ireland, our health service is truly suffering. As a result, all educational funding to residents has been cut. The grant would be greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Dr. Tara Connelly, MBBCh, MRCS

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