

# XIYA MA, MSC

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**Dear Committee members:**

Thank you for considering my application for the ASC Research Travel Award. The accepted abstract “*Training Global Surgery Advocates: Strengthening the Global Surgery Voice*” is a project led by Dr. Dominique Vervoort, Chair of InciSioN (International Student Surgical Network) and working at the Program in Global Surgery and Social Change at Harvard Medical School, and myself. The project explores the building and assessment of the effectiveness of a 3-day workshop for medical trainees to equip them with the tools and knowledge to advocate for global surgery, or achieving universal coverage for essential surgeries, in their respective countries. This project, while not associated with any academic institution, has been a joint international effort where we both constructed the workshop completely, based on our common knowledge and experience working in global surgery and with InciSioN. Our first edition brought 14 medical students from 14 different countries together in Québec, Canada with encouraging results as to achievement of our objectives. As a medical student in Canada, this award is essential to ensure the possibility for me to attend the ASC: funding for one’s medical education is an important financial hurdle to myself and many of my colleagues. In fact, the costs associated with travelling are the main obstacle for me to present our work at the ASC, which explains why Dr. Vervoort has been indicated as the presenter although we were initially hoping that I would be sharing the results of our projects.

Sincerely,



MD-MSc Candidate, Class of 2020

Université de Montréal, Canada