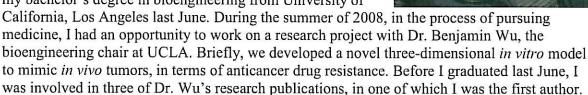November 2011

Dear Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald,

I am honored to be one of the recipients of the Robert F. MacDonald Fellowship. I cannot describe how much encouragement I have gained from receiving this scholarship and the gratitude I have for you. Your fellowship will help me to pursue my dream of becoming a faculty member at a research institute such as Stanford University.

I am currently a first year graduate student in the bioengineering PhD program here at Stanford. I just received my bachelor's degree in bioengineering from University of California, Los Angeles last June. During the summer of 2008, in the process of pursuing medicine, I had an opportunity to work on a research project with Dr. Benjamin Wu, the bioengineering chair at UCLA. Briefly, we developed a novel three-dimensional *in vitro* model to mimic *in vivo* tumors, in terms of anticancer drug resistance. Before I graduated last June, I was involved in three of Dr. Wu's research publications, in one of which I was the first author.

By experiencing various aspects of research I not only obtained scientific knowledge but also learned about mentorship and partnership, and ultimately found out that I wanted to be a researcher and teacher the rest of my life. During the last two years at UCLA, I was the research managing editor of UCLA Undergraduate Science Journal, which is supported by Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and I tutored UCLA Academic Advancement Program students in molecular biology.

One week after my undergraduate graduation, I could not wait to start another research project so I contacted Stanford bioengineering department and inquired about how I could get started right away. So since last June 20th, I have been getting trained under Dr. Jennifer Cochran in Stanford department of bioengineering. Our project focuses on noninvasive molecular imaging of tumors and cancer therapy. I have been getting myself into research more than ever, and I cannot think of anything else that I would do as my career. Aside from academics, I just started to independently volunteer at a high school in East Palo Alto. This is my first small but ambitious step to reach out to the community genuinely hoping to influence younger students both professionally and academically.

Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald, thank you again for your generosity. I will remember this support you have provided me, and hopefully in the near future, I will be able to do the same for others.

Sincerely,

Jun Kim