To members of the ICPI Board,

I wish to thank you for your travel stipend, which made my trip to New Orleans for the 2016 ACVP meeting more feasible. While at the 2016 ACVP meeting, I attended presentations on a variety of topics, which were instrumental in increasing my background knowledge in several areas of expertise: (i) At the lecture by Dr. Jennifer L. Johns on 'Rodent Clinical Pathology: Differentials, Dilutions, and Other Dilemmas' I learned about the importance of standardization of CBC and clinical pathology test across universities, mouse strains, investigators, and equipment. This information is incredibly useful as I have routinely utilized CBC and blood chemistry analyses as tools in my own research and when performing phenotypic characterization of mouse models. Furthermore, I learned which analytes are sensitive to dilution of blood samples and which are not. This information is essential for a pathologist performing routine CBC and blood chemistry on rodent samples as sample volume is a limiting factor in extensive analysis. (ii) At Dr. Ramesh C. Kovi's talk on 'Molecular Pathology Approaches in Toxocologic Pathology' I expanded my understanding of the variety of molecular approaches and their applications to characterization of pathogeneses in rodent models. Dr. Kovi provided a comprehensive outline of the varying molecular biology approaches specifically exome and RNA sequencing. This is an area of active interest and understanding how these approaches can be applied to understanding the dynamics operating within the tumor microenvironment of genetically engineered mouse models of cancer. (iii) At the educational focused scientific session on digital pathology I expanded upon my existing knowledge base of the applications of digital pathology and the variety of equipment and software. As a pathology trainee, I have novice level experience using programs like Nikon Elements and Aperio software, however, in my research I continue to try to develop algorithms for such software to utilize in assessing distribution of immune cell subsets in the tumor microenvironment. The entire session spanned several topics including the application of this technology in academic research, teaching, and industry. Overall this session provided me with a better understanding of digital pathology software and its applications. (iv) I attended the Meet the Pathologists: A Discussion of Careers in Pathology to gain further insight into potential careers in this discipline. I was particularly interested in the listening to individuals with careers in Academia vs. Industry as I was deciding between two job offers, one for an academic position and the other an industry position as a veterinary pathologist. This forum provided me with additional insight that helped me make a decision between an academic vs. industry position. (v) I attended Dr. Craig L Franklin's talk on 'Microbiota and Reproducibility in Animal Models' where I found the discussion about reconstitution of mouse microbiota and the sift in microbiota as animal models are transferred between academic institutions incredibly interesting. As a graduate student and postdoctoral researcher, I have encountered examples where phenotypic shifts in experimental findings/outcome occur when changes in vendors or relocation of an animal model from one academic institution to another occur. Currently I am taking a position in academia as an experimental pathologist with responsibilities to oversee a gnotobiotic facility, so this lecture was incredibly relevant to my future career. Overall this meeting met my educational needs as an experimental pathologist with research emphasis on mouse pathology. Furthermore, it provided valuable insight into my decision to pursue a career in academia. Thank you again for the travel award stipend and this opportunity to attend this exceptional meeting.

Respectfully,
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