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Institute for Cellular Transplantation

Department of Surgery

College of Medicine

1656 E. Mabel Street, Room 126

P.O. Box 245066

Tucson, AZ 85724-5066

Tel: (520) 626-4341

Fax: (520) 626-7779

www.medicine.arizona.edu

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It is my great pleasure to strongly recommend Trisha Fabijanic as a recipient for the CTRMS Scientific Abstract Travel Award. As a tenured Professor and Director of the Institute for Cellular Transplantation at the University of Arizona Department of Surgery, I first came to know Trisha when she entered our lab as a Research Professional in 2021. She was very enthusiastic and keen to be involved in numerous ongoing studies as a new member of the team and implement her experience in working with animal models.

Trisha has demonstrated an outstanding work ethic and breadth of knowledge in animal husbandry and in vivo research. Her understanding of histological processes has become invaluable in assessing our implantable devices post-explant. She has spent the last year working on the development of sheep as a large animal model for cell therapy and insulin kinetics alongside one of our staff scientists, as well as modifying our methods regarding animal work to increase efficiency and ease of reproducibility. She has become an integral and essential part of the team, demonstrating proficiency in surgical practices and animal care. She has continued to strive in her professional development, expanding her scope to include various assays and cell culturing.

The ICT has benefited from Trisha’s continued contributions and optimism. She is team-oriented and strives to promote collaboration and encouragement in the lab. Her background in industry and her dedication to our research have helped tremendously in moving the ICT toward our goals.

I recommend and fully support Trisha’s nomination without hesitation for the CTRMS Scientific Abstract Travel Award. It is my hope that you will provide an opportunity for her to participate in this program. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

 **Klearchos K. Papas, Ph.D.**

Tenured Professor of Surgery   
Director, Institute for Cellular Transplantation   
University of Arizona   
1656 E. Mabel Street Rm 126   
Tucson, AZ 85724   
Tel: 520-626-4494

Fax: 520-626-7779   
[E-mail: kkpapas@surgery.arizona.edu](mailto:kkpapas@email.arizona.edu)