



FACULTY OF SCIENCE

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July 31st, 2024

Re: Nomination of Dr. Sosa Ponce for the CCUBC Graduate Student Research Prize

Dear members of the award committee:

I am pleased to provide this letter strongly supporting the nomination of Dr. Sosa Ponce for the CCUBC Graduate Student Research Prize. Dr. Sosa was an outstanding graduate student from our department, and is an exceptional researcher. She was an undergraduate student in our department who undertook her Honour's Thesis project in Dr. Zarembeg's lab. She performed so well in this role that Dr. Zarembeg offered her a graduate position. Impressively, Dr. Sosa secured many prestigious scholarships to fund her graduate studies, including a Queen Elizabeth II graduate scholarship, an Alberta Innovates Graduate Scholarship, an NSERC PGS-D award, and many others. Dr. Sosa was also a very active member in our department, including serving on our EDI committee, being an executive member of the Graduate Student's Association for two years, and serving on a faculty position search committee.

Dr. Sosa's graduate research included understanding how the composition of the various lipids in the nuclear envelope of the cell impact gene expression and nuclear shape. She has published six manuscripts from her graduate work, four of which are first author (one co-first author). The paper included for this nomination was published in the *Journal of Cell Biology* and has garnered significant attention. For example, she received multiple poster and oral presentation awards at scientific meetings, including a Poster Presentation Award at the 65th CSMB meeting in 2022. She was also invited to write a review article in *Trends in Cell Biology*, which was recently published.

In summary, Dr. Sosa is a very well-rounded, collegial and accomplished researcher. She is one of the most impressive graduate students I have encountered. I provide my strongest recommendation for this award. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information in assessing this nomination.



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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a smaller 'H' and a long, horizontal flourish.

Dave Hansen
Professor and Head
Department of Biological Sciences