

HSGSA Dr. Forough Khadem Major Award Terms of Reference

The Dr. Forough Khadem Major Award is provided by the Health Sciences Graduate Students' Association (HSGSA) in conjunction with the Max Rady College of Medicine, to recognize graduate students who have demonstrated both scientific excellence and qualities of leadership by making outstanding contributions to our community.

This award has been established to honor the life, spirit, and work of Dr. Forough Khadem, who was an outstanding PhD student in the Department of Immunology at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Khadem was one of eight Manitobans on board Ukrainian Airlines Flight PS752 when it was accidentally shot down by the Iranian military as it left Tehran in January 2020. None of the 176 passengers on board survived.

Dr. Khadem was a brilliant researcher, a passionate advocate and mentor for women, and a shining example of a human being. She arrived in Canada from Iran in 2010 to pursue her studies at the University of Manitoba, graduating in 2016 with a PhD in immunology. During her time at the university, she established herself as a superb researcher and is credited with identifying a potential vaccine for leishmaniasis, a parasitic disease that affects millions of people, mostly in developing countries.

The award will be presented to two (2) outstanding graduate students (one Masters and one Doctoral level), who demonstrate leadership and a desire to have an impact on the world through science and who embody a pioneering spirit. This award is valued at \$1000 (each).

Eligibility

Any current full-time or part-time students enrolled in the Faculty of Graduate Studies in either a Master's or Doctoral program delivered by the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences who:

- (1) Demonstrates sustained leadership and initiative that is worthy of recognition.
- (2) Has demonstrated research excellence in the field of biomedical sciences.
- (3) Is not a member of the HSGSA Executive Team at the time of award disbursement.

Higher priority will be given to the candidate's leadership experience. Note: the selection committee defines leadership in its broadest sense, and applications will be evaluated on the quality, not quantity, of leadership described in the submissions.

Application

Candidates will be required to submit an application that will consist of:

- i. Description of their proposed or ongoing research (maximum of 500 words),
- ii. Curriculum vitae
- iii. A description of their leadership experience (maximum of 500 words) through formal or informal roles in our community.
- iv. Two reference letters; at least one reference letter must be from a professor that support their scientific excellence and involvement with our community.

The selection committee will be appointed by the Vice-Dean, RFHS Graduate and Post-doctoral studies or representative. The committee will consider all applicants against the selection criteria of the award.