**Call for Statements of Interest**

**“RFHS Graduate Student Professional Development Group”**

**Associate Membership with Bioscience Association Manitoba**

**Summary:** Nineteen Graduate students at the Rady Faculty of Health Sciences will be selected for inclusion in an Associate Membership to Bioscience Association Manitoba, extending from June 2021 to April 2022. Student currently enrolled in a RFHS graduate program or whose primary supervisor holds a primary appointment within RFHS will be eligible to apply.

**Description:**Bioscience Association Manitoba (BAM) is a non-profit company whose stated mission is “To enable commercial success for Manitoba’s bioscience companies by acting as a catalyst for innovation, by expanding the sector’s skills and workforce development, and by leading with one unified voice to create local and global engagement.” They have over 110 member companies, spanning 3 sectors: Biohealth, Ag Biotech and Clean Biotech. Their members and partners include for-profit companies, research institutions, funding organizations, and other non-profit entities.  BAM holds several networking events each year (typically 4 or more), hosts special events such as business pitch competitions, workshops/forums, global biotech week celebrations, and a yearly gala, publishes reports such as the Industry Profile Study, offers professional skills training, advocates for the industry, and serves as a hub for bioscience industry news, discussion forums, and job openings.

**Benefits of membership:**Building a network early can be instrumental for career success in several ways. Students can gain confidence, practice their science communication skills, learn about their career options directly from those in the industry, and tap into the hidden job market. As associate student members, students can attend networking events and certain special events at no cost and other events and training at reduced cost. Dr. Samantha Pauls will attend and coach students with tips, tricks and challenges prior to each event to promote meaningful engagement.

**Application process:** Submit a statement of interest (maximum 1,500 words) to Jessica Fraser (jessica.fraser@umanitoba.ca). The statements will be evaluated and ranked by an interdisciplinary committee of RFHS faculty members. Be sure to include:

* How you expect this membership to advance your career goals
* How this membership complements your other professional development efforts
* Your degree program, department/college and expected graduate date (To be used for tracking interest; preference may be given to senior students)

**Due date:** June 25, 2021 at 4:00pm