GSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE (GSA NoC)

DEAN OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY SELECTION COMMITTEE (ONE (1) POSITION):
SEVEN (7) NOMINEES

The Office of the Provost has struck a Dean Selection Committee for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FoMD). The mechanism for electing one (1) graduate student from FoMD to the FoMD Dean Selection Committee is as follows:

“Each Departmental Graduate Student Association shall forward a name to the Graduate Students’ Association and the representative will be elected by the Graduate Students’ Association Council. If no Departmental Graduate Student Association exists or if no names are forwarded by the existing associations, the Graduate Students’ Association shall be responsible for forwarding a name to the Graduate Students’ Association Council for ratification” (UAPPOL Faculty Deans Selection Procedure Appendix A: Dean Selection Committee for Individual Faculties).

On 8 January 2019, the GSA began the work of contacting all ten (10) departmental GSAs in the FoMD and requesting that they inform the GSA NoC by 11 January 2019 if they were unable to conduct a process to identify a nominee from their respective departments and whether the GSA would be responsible for forwarding a name to the GSA Council. No departmental GSAs indicated so. Departmental GSAs were asked to submit the name of their respective nominees to the GSA by the deadline of 22 January 2019. Five (5) nominations in total were submitted from each of the departments of Biochemistry, Medicine, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, and Physiology via their respective departmental GSAs.

On 14 January 2019, the GSA circulated a call to graduate students in each of the eight (8) departments in the FoMD without a departmental GSA, inviting nominations with a deadline of 22 January 2019. One (1) nomination was submitted from the department of Pediatrics and was circulated to graduate students in the department of Pediatrics with an electronic ballot to approve this student as their departmental nominee. One (1) nomination was received from the department of Ophthalmology, in which only one (1) graduate student was registered at the start of this election process.

There will be a paper ballot vote held at the 28 January 2019 GSA Council meeting for the Graduate Student Position on the Dean Selection Committee (Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry)

If you are unable to attend the 28 January 2019 meeting of GSA Council and would like to cast an electronic vote for this position, you must contact the GSA Nominating Committee Coordinator (gsa.nomcomm@ualberta.ca) BEFORE 3:00 PM on Monday 28 January 2019 in order to cast your vote in advance of the GSA Council meeting.

Nominees for this position are listed in alphabetical order by last name and will be presented in reverse alphabetical order on the ballot. ‘None of the Candidates’ will not be considered a nominee for the purpose of this ballot, as University regulations must be followed.

Ophthalmology Nominee:
Matthew Benson

Pediatrics Nominee:
Khushmol Dhaliwal

Biochemistry Nominee:
Brianna Greenwood

Neuroscience Nominee:
Abdullah Ishaque

Medicine Nominee:
Saima Rajabali

Pharmacology Nominee:
Nicholas Ruel

Physiology Nominee:
Yilun Wu

The names and biographies received for the seven (7) nominees are ATTACHED on pages 8.1 - 8.9. Biographies and resumes have been attached as received (ie not edited).
### Nominations for Dean of Medicine and Dentistry Selection Committee
(1 Vacancy for a Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Graduate Student)
Seven (7) Nominees

#### 1. Matthew Benson

| Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta) | N/A |

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#### Statement of Interest

I believe I have experience in areas that would be of value and would enable me to effectively contribute as the GSA representative on the FoMD Dean Selection Committee. I have served as an interviewer on the U of A Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry admissions committee and more recently as an interviewer and file reviewer for the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences in the resident selection process. I have also been a member of several other curriculum review committees including the Neurosciences and Ophthalmology curriculum review groups as a medical student. Finally, I have been involved in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada accreditation process last year for the Department of Ophthalmology at the U of A. These experiences have provided me with an opportunity to develop skills for functioning and participating effectively in committees and have fostered in me the value of the diverse opinions of other members and the importance of collaboration and confidentiality. Furthermore, my work on previous interview committees has provided me with perspectives on evaluating candidates and critical factors to consider when making a decision on an applicant.

#### Bio

I was born in South Africa and emigrated to Canada at a young age. I have lived in several communities across Western Canada but I have been in Edmonton for 11 years and call Edmonton home. As an undergraduate student, I studied Physiology and Developmental Biology at the University of Alberta and received Bachelor of Medical Sciences and Doctor of Medicine degrees from the University of Alberta in 2013 and 2015, respectively. I am currently a 4th year post-graduate ophthalmology resident in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and I have extended my training by an additional year to pursue a Master of Science degree in ophthalmology. When I'm not in lab or at the hospital, I value spending time with my family. I am also an avid hockey player and I volunteer weekly as a Vision Mate for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB).

#### Summary Resume
I am currently a full-time Master of Science student in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences in Dr. Ian MacDonald's lab. My project involves examining the mechanism of disease in a patient who has a peroxisomal biogenesis disorder. My work involves both basic science and clinical elements, including participation in a clinical trial in collaboration with another Canadian university. I completed my MD degree in 2015 at the U of A and I am also a 4th year resident physician in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences. I plan on pursuing fellowship training in ophthalmic genetics with the aspiration for becoming a clinician-scientist. I am also a member of the Research Committee for my department and I have given numerous teaching and research seminars throughout my training. Finally, I strongly value volunteerism and it's my 6th year as a Vision Mate for the CNIB. In this role, I support an individual with vision loss with managing daily activities such as reading mail and grocery shopping. I will be able to attend all of the meetings outlined for the FoMD Dean Selection Committee. I feel that it would be an honor to be part of a team responsible for selecting a leader for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry.
2. Khushmol Dhaliwal

| Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta) | GSA council & Search and Selection Committee for the dept. of pediatrics chair |

**Statement of Interest**

The skills I've attained from serving on other governance bodies have provided me with experience in understanding the process and importance of this position. I have various leadership skills through different student groups on campus which also allows me to understand the importance of not only hearing but understanding various perspectives and making sure all voices are heard. I am passionate about getting involved in the campus community and contributing to the growth and future of the FoMD by serving as a voice for my colleagues and peers.

**Bio**

I am born and raised in Edmonton. I graduated with Distinction from the U of A with a BSc in Psychology and minor in Biological Sciences. I have volunteered extensively with children and teens with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) during my time in undergrad and this experience led me to pursue an MSc in Pediatrics where I am working to better understand why there are higher rates of obesity and overweight in children and teens with ASD. I have also volunteered with various programs outside of the U of A such as the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights and Capital Care Grandview.

**Summary Resume**

I am in my second year of my MSc and working on my research project in better understanding differences in blood biomarkers and hormonal factors between children with ASD and typically developing populations. I am the current GSR for the Department of Pediatrics and hold various student group positions such as with Obesity Canada and the Pediatric Student's Involvement Group (PSIG). I am available during all of the currently scheduled meetings and am also flexible in accommodating any further schedule changes.
### Statement of Interest

I believe my experience advocating for students as a GSA Councillor and FoMD Graduate Student Advisory Committee representative will give me a leg up on ensuring the candidate who will best support graduate students is chosen as the new Dean of the FoMD. Graduate student funding in the FoMD has been historically as low as 1% of the FoMD budget, while the Faculty of Science has funded graduate students at up to 15% of the faculty budget. This means that many departments in the FoMD require all funding for graduate students to be provided by the principal investigator and scholarships brought in by the students. I believe that experience both as a graduate student and overseeing graduate students should be a necessity for the new Dean, which would provide a strong foundation to understanding how these budget issues impact graduate students and departments as a whole. As a new budget model for funding is being discussed within the University, I am dedicated to choosing a Dean that values graduate students and what they can provide to the faculty.

### Bio

I received my BSc in Molecular Cellular Biology from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington down in the United States. After my undergraduate career, I spent a year in a lab in Redmond, Washington, as a member of the Research and Development team, before returning to Edmonton to begin my graduate studies in Dr. Stuart's lab in the department of Biochemistry. I am currently the GSA Councillor and Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Graduate Student Advisory Council representative for the Biochemistry department. I volunteer at the Stollery in the University hospital as well as running with the Edmonton Trail Runners.

### Summary Resume

In my undergraduate career, I was involved in athletics, competing as a varsity swimmer all four years and spending my final year leading the team as a senior captain. I spent a year volunteering at the hospital in the Emergency Room after classes, ensuring all patients and families were comfortable. I was also a member of the Alpha Phi sorority and the Phi Sigma biological honors society on campus. In Alpha Phi, I spent time as the Director of Philanthropy, Vice President of Marketing, and Red Dress Gala chair, raising over $18,000 towards women's cardiac care during one Red Dress Gala event. As a Phi Sigma member, I helped clean up parks in Washington and tutor younger students in the sciences. My involvement outside of academics - both in athletics and in groups that
helped me give back to my community - taught me time management skills and showed me how important advocating for my community can be. I will be able to attend all of the required town halls and meetings for this committee.
### Statement of Interest

I am involved with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in the capacity of both as a medical student and as a student representative on their MD Admissions Committee, for which I have served a four-year commitment. I gained substantial experience in administrative roles and have been involved with refining critical Faculty policies on Indigenous students and their admissions process. Furthermore, I have served one-year terms on the Canadian Federation of Medical Students and the Clinician Investigator Trainee Association of Canada in leadership positions to advocate and develop national guidelines for clinician scientist trainees in Canada. Throughout these experiences, I have gained a passion for advocating for greater accessibility and sustainability for Indigenous trainees in the Faculty and for improved research training and education in the undergraduate MD program. I aim to represent these views, along with the perspective of the GSA on the Dean Selection committee.

### Bio

After completing my undergraduate degree at UofT (2013), I joined the MSc program at UAlberta with the neuroscience institute. In the Fall of 2015, I was accepted to the MD/PhD program at UAlberta with research activities in neuroscience. I was an active member of the Medical Students' Association during my medical training for which I was awarded their Involvement Award. As part of the NMHI, I volunteered my time with their annual events.

### Summary Resume

I am in my final of PhD and will return to medical training in the Fall of 2019. My PhD involves studying amyotrophic lateral sclerosis using advanced magnetic resonance imaging methods. I am supervised by Dr Kalra (neurology), Dr Beaulieu (biomedical engineering), and Dr Yang (computing science). I am available/flexible during the times indicated as part of the mandate for the committee.
5. Saima Rajabali

| Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UA) | - FGSR Council - Councillor  
               - Department of Medicine Graduate Students' Association - VP Academic |

Statement of Interest

I believe that my diverse educational, work and volunteer experiences make me a well-suited candidate to serve as a graduate student representative on the FoMD Dean Selection Committee. As a Research Coordinator in the Division of Geriatric medicine, Councillor on FGSR Council, Vice President (Academic) of the Department of Medicine Graduate Students' Association and Vice President of the student body of the International Association of Geriatrics and Gerontology (IAGG), I have further developed my verbal and written communication skills as well as improved my abilities to work with diverse groups of internal and external stakeholders. In addition, through my involvement in various leadership roles, I know the importance of maintaining confidentiality and have developed skills in giving pertinent feedback and evaluation. I believe these skills will be essential as a member of the Dean selection Committee.

Bio

I was born and raised in Pakistan and obtained my medical degree of MBBS there. I then came to Edmonton to do my MSc in Medical Sciences from the University of Alberta and subsequently gained certification as a Clinical Research Professional. I am working as Clinical Trials Project Coordinator in the Division of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Alberta in addition to pursuing my PhD. I am also a student representative for the Canadian Association of Gerontology and Vice president of the IAGG student committee. In my free time I enjoy live theatre, trying new restaurants and watching Oilers games with my husband.

Summary Resume

I am a PhD student in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine. My research focuses on the impact of peer education and support on healthy aging behaviours in community dwelling seniors and the identification of priorities with regards to the health education needs of seniors. I also facilitate Discovery Learning sessions for first and second year medical students and supervise undergraduate students doing their research in the Division of Geriatric Medicine. I have extensive experience in conducting and managing clinical trials. In addition to various leadership roles, I volunteer with Aga Khan Health Board for Edmonton as a member for health professionals' networking.
### 6. Nicholas Ruel

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<th>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</th>
<th>GSA ACB, PGSA Treasurer</th>
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**Statement of Interest**

In my teenage life I was a soccer referee, meaning that I was put in high stress and challenging environment that forced me to make a clear and concise call on any plays that happened on the field of play. This experience taught me how to make a rational and fair choice under circumstances of pressure. I will used this as an asset to help in the selection of a new Dean for the FoMD. I am also a passionate member of the Department of Pharmacology and the FoMD and would like to be a part of such a critical component for the future of the Faculty moving forward.

**Bio**

I was born in Calgary but raised in Cold Lake, Alberta where I went to middle school and high school. Following this, I came to the University of Alberta where I attained my BSc Specialization in Pharmacology (2017). Immediately after this I joined an MSc program in the Department of Pharmacology with the intention of transferring to a PhD this spring. I have been a part of many clubs in the past including: Science Mentors, RuSH, and Science FUNdamentals, in which I served on the executive team for RuSH as the Run With Kids Director. Currently, I am a member of the GSA ACB and the PGSA as the Treasurer which has given me lots of experience in governance and leadership. I am also intending to stay on the GSA ACB and PGSA in the future.

**Summary Resume**

I am currently a 2nd year MSc student serving on the PGSA as the Treasurer, as well as a member of the GSA ACB. As the PGSA Treasurer I am responsible for the finances of the PGSA along with the general tasks associated with being an executive like: organizing events, planning Research Day, holding meeting, etc. These experiences have helped me to understand a lot about leadership and organization that would be an asset on this committee. Finally, my schedule is quite flexible in order to incorporate all the meetings that are necessary for this process.
7. **Yilun Wu**

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<th>Other governance bodies you currently serve on (whether GSA or UAlberta)</th>
<th>GSA, GFC.</th>
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**Statement of Interest**

I have previously represented students on the Dean's advisory committee for selection of a Chair of Department of Physiology, and I have understanding of similar selection committee procedures and the relevant evaluation criteria. Throughout my undergraduate and graduate studies I have represented students in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in departmental meetings, departmental GSA's, faculty meetings, and the broader community in GSA and GFC.

I am familiar with the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry as not only is it my home faculty, but also I have served its students on the Faculty Council. I believe my experience with the process and the faculty will contribute to the selection committee for the next Dean of FoMD.

**Bio**

I completed my Bachelors of Science Honours in Physiology (FoMD) at the University of Alberta in 2016 and continued onto my Masters in Physiology in the same department. I work in kidney transplantation research, and my supervisor and colleagues are largely from the department of surgery. I have always been interested in advocating for student interests in various University governance bodies, and I believe the selection of a capable Dean to follow in the footsteps of late Dr. Fedorak would benefit students in the FoMD greatly.

**Summary Resume**

I have served on the Dean's advisory committee for Department of Physiology Chair selection in 2016 as a graduate student representative. I have served as the president of the Physiology GSA since 2016 and continued to involve myself in departmental student organization. I served as the department councilor to GSA since 2016. I served as the GSA elected student representative to the FoMD Faculty Council in 2017-2018. In 2018 I began my term as a GSA elected student representative on the General Faculties Council (GFC) and the GFC Nominating Committee.

My graduate program is a MSc in Physiology, though I work with many students across different departments through my research projects, volunteering, and student governance work.