



November 12, 2020

**Objet : “Bourse de recrutement au doctorat Pierre J. Durand – Citoyen du monde 2020-2021”**

Dear Donors  
Faculty of Medicine  
Laval University  
Quebec City, Canada

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as a recipient of the scholarship “Bourse de recrutement au doctorat Pierre J. Durand”, combined with the scholarship “Citoyen du monde – Volet excellence”. I will be forever grateful for your generosity, which allowed me to pursue my doctoral studies in Microbiology and Immunology at the Faculty of Medicine at Laval University.

Receiving these scholarships also meant an important acknowledgment of all the hard work done during my master's studies, and it is a motivation to continue pursuing the dream of a carrier in vaccine research. My Ph.D. project is based on the design of a COVID-19 vaccine, and just being able to make a small contribution to such and critical topic means the world to me. Furthermore, I cannot help to feel blessed for being part of Laval University and been fully supported throughout my adjustment as an international student during the challenges of a pandemic. Although I am Cuban, I already consider ULaval as my home and nothing would make me happier than contributing to raising the international reputation of this respected institution.

Thank you for dedicating your time and resources to assist students in need. Your selfless support has inspired me to give back to others and I hope one day I can help talented students from developing countries to reach their study and career goals.

Sincerely yours,  
Santa Mariela Olivera Ugarte  
PhD Student – Microbiology and Immunology  
CHUL – Department of Infectology, Immunology and Microbiology

