



Condor, July 01 2019

**Bourse Pierre-Jacob-Durand**

Dear Donateur,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you for funding the Bourse Pierre Jacob-Durand. I am very happy and deeply honored to be selected as the recipient of your scholarship, which will be very important for the development of my studies at the Université Laval.

My name is Karine de Mattos, 25 years old, Brazilian, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (2016) and Master's degree in Animal Science (2019). In the past eight years, I had the opportunity to develop my ability and have experience in different universities, laboratories and research groups in Brazil, Canada, Spain and Uruguay, in the field of Reproductive Biology which I am fascinated by.

I was born into a humble family in a small town in southern Brazil. With the support of my parents, I had the opportunity to leave my city to study at the age of 14, being the first of my family to attend a public university and the first to obtain a master's degree. In this process, I became passionate about science and new challenges, so achieving a PhD abroad, especially in an institution like the Université Laval has become a dream for me. Finally, I got the opportunity to fulfill my dream, becoming the first of my family to get a PhD and the first to leave Brazil to study. For this reason, I deeply believe that education is a powerful tool that can transform lives.

I chose Canada to my PhD because it is a developed country with a high quality of life, which invests heavily in education and is very inclusive to foreigners. In addition, the Université Laval is a high-quality institution with international prestige, developing relevant research and providing students with an environment of excellence. I was very happy when I found an available position in Dr. Tremblay's group at the Faculté de Médecine because besides being an expert in his area of study, his research subject matches with my research goals.

My professional goals are to become a scientist and teacher, contributing to science and collaborating in the formation of new professionals. Thus, the Bourse Pierre Jacob-Durand will allow me to consolidate my goals and to widen my knowledge of the world by immersing myself in a new culture and improving my multidisciplinary knowledge.

Moreover, starting my PhD, with your support, will help me with the cost of moving from Brazil to Canada and will be key to establishing myself in Quebec, especially in the most critical phase, which is the first year. Your support also inspires me to do my best to repay your trust and contribution.

Thank you again for your investment in students like me.

Kind regards,

Karine De Mattos  
Programme de doctorat en médecine moléculaire