

May 10th, 2019

To the donors of the “Berti Farag Science Award for the Best Research Project in Biology”,

I am unbelievably grateful for having been selected as the recipient of the “Berti Farag Science Award for the Best Research Project in Biology”. Despite the significant amount of thought and time that I invested into my research, I never once considered that I may be selected as the recipient of this prestigious award. As a result, receiving this recognition has led to an astounding boost of self-confidence.

When I was in elementary and high school, my aspirations were low. When I began to study the sciences in CEGEP, I finally discovered my passion for biology. This newfound interest motivated me to excel in school while pursuing university studies in biology. I am now 21 years old and will complete my B.Sc. with Honours in Biology in June, here at Concordia University. Since I have never had easy access to money, I have always enjoyed tutoring grade 10 and 11 mathematics on the side of my heavy course load during the semesters. I can’t even begin to describe the comfort that I feel thanks to the financial support that comes with this award. Following the end of my undergraduate degree, I plan to pursue graduate studies where I hope to participate in important biomedical research that presents me with an opportunity to make a difference in the world. This award that I have been honoured with will surely prove invaluable in helping me to pursue these further studies. I fully appreciate that I have only reached this point with the help of friends, family, and faculty – and that while my name is attached to this award, I share this achievement with everybody who has helped me get to this point. It is thanks to this award that I now believe that I can pursue further education and research that significantly benefits the society that has elevated me to this point over the years.

Shortly after learning that I was chosen as the recipient for this award, I sent an email thanking my research supervisor. In that email, I referred to this award as a “game-changer” for me. I have yet to find a better way of describing it. To all involved who made this possible – the Berti family, the donors, and all others involved in the Farag & Ward Foundation, thank you.

With the upmost thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Adam MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Adam MacDonald