



February 21, 2020

Svetlana Djirackor
1700 Fulton St.
Grand Rapids, MI 49506-1801

by email

Dear Svetlana,

On the basis of an enthusiastic recommendation from the admissions committee, I am pleased to offer you admission to the doctoral program at Van Andel Institute Graduate School, with initial enrollment in August, 2020. We hope that you will accept this offer and that you will find your graduate education here to be an appropriate stepping stone to a long and successful career as a scientist.

As you know from your exploration of our program, VAIGS is a distinctive PhD program within an exceptional research setting. Our training plan is explicitly and thoughtfully designed to support the development of future leaders in biomedical research. The scope of research opportunities within Van Andel Research Institute is narrowly but deeply focused on the cellular, molecular, genetic and epigenetic biology of human diseases such as cancer, Parkinson's disease, and metabolic disorders. Our facilities reinforce the spirit of creativity and collaboration that drives the way research is done here. We hope that our educational approach and the significant research questions we study fit well with your goals and ambitions.

This offer of admission is accompanied by a pledge of financial support in the form of an institutional fellowship for up to five years. This fellowship provides an initial annual stipend of \$35,500 (with annual increases); health, dental and vision insurance for student and dependents; a life insurance plan; and full waiver of tuition and fees. The Graduate School will also provide you with a laptop computer at the time of enrollment. In addition, the Graduate School will provide \$2,000 per year to support your attendance at scientific conferences and workshops.

VAIGS is authorized to admit international students within the Exchange Visitor program (represented by the J visa class). That visa class ensures sufficient length of stay to complete the doctoral training program and offers the additional advantage that dependents (on J-2 visa status) are eligible for employment during their stay in the US. The visa programs are administered by the Human Resources office of Van Andel Institute. The HR staff will confirm your eligibility for program participation and then will provide supporting documents necessary to obtain the J visa. Further information and instructions will be provided after you accept the offer of admission.

The Fall Semester orientation activities will begin on Monday, August 17. All students must be present on campus by that date. We will formally introduce you to the VAI scientific community in a convocation ceremony on August 24, to which your family and friends will be warmly welcome.

As is true for VARI employees, this offer is contingent upon successful completion of a criminal background check. This will be conducted under the auspices of the VAI Office of Human Resources only for applicants who accept the offer of admission.

The program requirements and typical plan of study are detailed at our web site. Please contact me or Christy Mayo, Director of Enrollment and Records for the Graduate School, with any questions about our program or the admissions process.

I sincerely hope that you will accept this offer to join our community of scholars at Van Andel Institute. We offer an excellent environment in which to further your scientific career. I would appreciate receiving your decision as soon as possible, and by April 15, 2020 at the latest. Best wishes as you consider this and any other options for this next step in your scientific development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Triezenberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S".

Steve Triezenberg, PhD
President and Dean
Van Andel Institute Graduate School