Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit
Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
 Applicant addresses the potential to advance knowledge through personal, background, and future goals, the graduate research plan narrative, has an impressive academic and research record, presentations, and great letters of recommendation.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts
Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
 Applicant addresses the potential for benefiting society and contributing to achieving improvements in society wellness through personal experiences, professional experiences, educational experiences, and future plans.

Summary Comments
Great impressive application with the following additional comments: Clearly specify the intent of graduate school (Ph.D. degree and Researcher) Bioengineering is primary field of study and BS IM and BI clearly stated and in dedicated narrative sections Excellent BI section with significant examples and details Impressive grades and great letters of recommendation Very technical narrative Very interesting research project proposed with biomaterials and regenerative medicine Great research experience and background and accomplishments Potential pitfalls / risks / and alternative strategies / mitigations presented/ addressed Drug delivery methods and commercialization prospects addressed

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit
Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
Multiple research experiences, strong academic record, and strong support from references

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts
Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
The first paragraph of the personal statement represents a clear and concise statement of the applicant's sense of purpose; the candidate has also been actively involved in educational outreach as a Say Yes to Education Enrichment Specialist, as a community volunteer tutor, and through science presentations at local school

Summary Comments
The candidate is well-poised for a future career as a researcher and educator
Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit
Excellent

Explanation to Applicant
The candidate completed her degree in Bioengineering at [Redacted] in May 2016, and her academic record, especially in her final two years, is outstanding. She has multiple research experiences, at [Redacted] and at [Redacted], which led to several award winning conference presentations. She delayed entering graduate school for one year so that she could gain research experience with scholars at [Redacted] and [Redacted]. The proposed research aims to study the role of damage-associated molecular patterns in inflammation and tissue remodeling. Especially impressive about the proposal is the inclusion of alternative strategies in case the original approach is not successful. Letters of support, all from faculty at [Redacted] are overwhelmingly supportive of the candidate.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts
Very Good

Explanation to Applicant
The candidate has an impressive list of outreach activities. Most impressive is her involvement with the [Redacted] Northeast Community Center and the [Redacted] Region Science and Engineering Fair. For each, she not only participated but developed new experiments to improve the programs. The candidate does not propose such activities during her graduate studies. Results from the proposed research may broadly have an impact on understanding of ECM biomaterials, but the candidate could have made the connection to her proposed research more specific.

Summary Comments
The applicant has a solid academic background and has won numerous awards for her accomplishments. She is pursuing additional laboratory training to better prepare her for graduate school. Intellectual merit is very strong, and broader impacts are strong. The candidate has very strong recommendations.