

Dear InterPore Committee,

My name is Mahtab Shahrzadi, and I am a PhD candidate at the University of Manchester. My research focuses on modelling two-phase flow in proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cells. I obtained my BSc and MSc degrees from Isfahan University of Technology (IUT). During my master's studies, my research focused on fluid flow and heat transfer in lattice materials. I have actively participated in the porous media community through my involvement in InterPore events, including the 7th Interpore UK Chapter Conference in Manchester (2024) and InterPore2026 in Nantes. These experiences have broadened my research perspective and provided valuable opportunities to engage with leading researchers in the porous media community.

As a PhD student, I have benefited greatly from the scientific, educational, and networking opportunities provided by InterPore. I would like to contribute to the Student Affairs Committee to help strengthen the engagement of students and postdoctoral researchers within the organization. I believe SAC plays a vital role in creating a supporting environment where young researchers can connect, learn from one another, and develop professionally.

If elected, I would focus on three main priorities:

1. **Increasing Accessibility and Professional Development Opportunities:** I would support the expansion of workshops, tutorials, and short courses that help students develop both fundamental and advanced skills in porous media research, particularly in numerical and computational methods. I would also explore opportunities to improve accessibility to InterPore events, especially the annual conference, by working with local organizers, accommodation providers, and sponsors to help reduce participation costs for students and early-career researchers.

2. **Strengthening Networking and Community Building:** I would like to organize networking and social activities that encourage interaction among students, postdoctoral researchers, and senior scientists. Activities such as the Nantes city walk and SAC networking night event at InterPore2026 demonstrated how valuable informal interactions can be. I would also explore additional team-based and interactive activities such as games that help participants connect in a relaxed and engaging environment. To further encourage student participation, I would also propose introducing a voluntary Poster Pitch Competition for anyone interested as a complementary activity to the existing poster awards. Inspired by the *Three Minute Thesis (3MT)* format, participants would have one or two minutes to present the main idea and significance of their research in a clear and simple way. This would provide students with an opportunity to improve their communication skills, gain additional exposure for their work, and engage with a broader audience in an enjoyable and interactive way. Such an initiative could become a unique and memorable feature of future InterPore conferences.

3. Supporting Career Development: I would promote career-oriented events that connect students and early-career researchers with professionals from academia and industry. In addition to continuing successful initiatives such as the Career Development and Grant Writing sessions at InterPore2026, I would also encourage activities focused on scientific publishing. For example, inviting editors and reviewers from leading porous media journals to share practical advice on preparing high-quality manuscripts would provide valuable guidance for PhD students and early-career researchers.

I am committed to helping make InterPore an engaging, welcoming, and supportive community for students and early-career researchers worldwide. I would be honoured to contribute to SAC and work with fellow members to create meaningful opportunities for the next generation of porous media researchers.