

Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer

Research Society, Inc.

A Georgia Non-profit Corporation

TRAVEL GRANT POLICY

ARTICLE I

PURPOSE

1.01 Purpose of Policy

Attending and presenting at the national American Crystallographic Association (ACA) conference is an extremely valuable opportunity for students to not only learn about cutting-edge research and therapeutics in the field of crystallography but also make connections with the leaders in academia and industry. This annual STARS Travel Grant is for covering traveling costs, conference attendance costs, conference membership costs, hotel costs, and any other associated costs with attending and presenting at the conference, which is not covered by another grant or source of funding. The number of STARS Travel Grant Awards given to students will be dependent on how much funds STARS has for this program in a given year. The amount of funds STARS will award each student will be a maximum of \$600 worth of reimbursements upon presentation of each students' receipts showing their incurred conference costs. Students will apply to the STARS Travel Grant, and the award will be given to students based on merit and financial need qualifications. The program will be publicized on the STARS website, STARS branch communications, and the STARS annual meeting. Currently STARS does not provide scholarships, fellowships, or loans. If any other scholarships, fellowships, or loans are considered, the program will be designed with associated requirements, documentation, and stipulations determined by the STARS Board of Directors.

There are two different sets of eligibility criteria for the STARS Travel Grant Awards:

1. STARS Travel Grant Awards – V1
2. STARS Travel Grant Awards – V2

Of all Travel Grants awarded, approximately half of them will be the first version, while half will be the second version. Both will be widely advertised across all STARS communication channels.

1.02 Eligibility and Purpose for STARS Travel Grant Awards – V1

One version of the award is only for current STARS members (of course any student can become a STARS member at any time) for the aim of strengthening their understanding about the importance of research at the conference, have the opportunity to present about STARS outreach or research work, and advocate for the STARS mission and do fundraising at the conference. At the same time, this experience would provide the STARS members with personal and professional development as well as inspiration that can help power their STARS program initiatives in the next school year.

1.03 Eligibility and Purpose for STARS Travel Grant Awards – V2

The second version of the award is available to all students 9th grade to university level to attend the ACA conference to understand what the conference and crystallography research setting are like. STARS members can apply to this second version, but this second version is not restricted to only STARS members.

ARTICLE II

APPLICATION

2.01 Application cycle, announcement, and procedure

A new STARS Travel Grant application cycle will begin each year on February 1st. Applications close two weeks after the ACA Travel Grant application closes for that year. If ACA is not organizing a Travel Grant that year, then applications will close two weeks after the ACA oral presentation abstract submission deadline, which is generally the end of March each year.

The opportunity to apply for the V1 and V2 STARS Travel Grants will be announced on the website, on STARS branch communication channels, and at STARS club meetings and outreach events.

Students who are eligible and wish to apply must submit an application on the STARS website. The predetermined selection committee members will evaluate the applications based on certain criteria.

2.02 Eligibility

STARS Travel Grant – V1 eligibility:

1. Be a STARS student member
2. Submitted an ACA conference abstract by the oral presentation deadline and
3. Submitted an ACA Travel Grant Application

STARS Travel Grant – V2 eligibility:

1. Be a student between 9th grade and undergraduate studies

2.03 Evaluation Criteria

STARS Travel Grant – V1 Criteria include:

1. Interest in crystallography research
2. Demonstrated interest in STARS club and research activities and advocacy / Outreach volunteer leadership roles with STARS
3. Potential for becoming a STARS branch leader or current status as STARS branch leader and strengthening their skills and connections through the conference
4. Letter of support, and
5. Financial need.

STARS Travel Grant – V2 Criteria include:

1. Interest in crystallography research,
2. Interest in experiencing what a conference is like,
3. Magnitude of how useful the Travel Grant would be to the student,
4. Letter of support, and
5. Financial need.

ARTICLE III

DISBURSEMENT AND FOLLOW-UP

3.01 Disbursement

The two STARS Travel Grants will be provided to students through reimbursement only.

STARS Travel Grant Awardees – V1/V2 whether awarded the ACA Travel Grant or grants through other funding sources must provide:

1. Documentation of amount of awards received from ACA or any other funding sources besides STARS,
2. Documentation of any other travel grant or awards that supported their trip to the conference,
3. Documentation on all conference-related costs, and
4. Requested left-over quantity of costs requested for reimbursement.

Only a maximum of \$600 would be reimbursed.

3.02 Follow-up

Within two weeks of the conference ending, each STARS Travel Grant Awardee must submit a one-paged report that can include required reflection topics such as:

- How useful the conference experience was and the student's plans for STARS program initiatives in the upcoming school year (V1)
- How useful the conference experience was and the student's plans based on how this may have enhanced or altered their understanding about themselves or their future career pathway (V2)

3.02 Case histories

STARS will maintain case histories showing recipients of our educational grants, including names, addresses, purposes of awards, amount of each grant, manner of selection, and relationship (if any) to officers, trustees, or donors of funds.

ARTICLE IV

SELECTION COMMITTEE

4.01 Selection Committee composition

The selection committee for the two STARS Travel Grants will be composed of the Board of Directors, and one representative adult STARS branch leader from each STARS branch. Any alternative composition can be used at the discretion of the board of directors.

4.02 Conflict of Interest

Relatives of members of the selection committee, of the officers, directors, or substantial contributors are eligible for the STARS Travel Grant Awards. To ensure there is no conflict of interest, any "interested person" who may have a familial or business connection to a STARS Travel Grant applicant must disclose the potential conflict of interest and must not participate in the discussion or the decision on the applying student's application to the STARS Travel Grant.

ARTICLE V

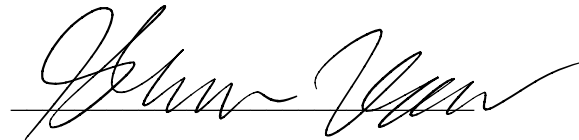
AMENDMENT OF TRAVEL GRANT POLICY

5.01 Amendment

Any amendment to the Travel Grant Policy may be adopted by approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the board of directors.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION OF TRAVEL GRANT POLICY

I do hereby certify that the above stated Travel Grant Policy of Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society, Inc. was approved by the Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society, Inc. board of directors on May 28th, 2025, and constitute a complete copy of the Travel Grant Policy of the corporation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Gurnoor Hayer', written over a horizontal line.

Gurnoor Hayer, Secretary Director

Date: 05/28/25