Dear Form 1023 Reviewers,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and I am the Professor of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ University.

I am writing to support the STARS request on the expedited IRS-processing of the Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society's Form 1023, Application for Recognition of Exemption Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society (STARS) is a student-led nonprofit organization dedicated to engaging and empowering students in crystal-growing, crystallography, and therapeutic research. STARS has organized over 12 events and programs, such as crystal-growing competitions, crystallography workshops, and lecture series sessions over the past four years with 380+ participants cumulatively. They are dedicated to providing valuable scientific and educational skill sets to K-12th and undergraduate students through STARS club branch activities and outreach programs tailored to the students' education background and scientific interests. Survey data show that students often enjoy the opportunity to work with research-grade equipment, network with professors, and learn about crystallography research in the extracurricular settings. The skills, such as micropipetting, analyzing macromolecular data, and learning how experiments can be set up to investigate therapeutic questions, not only can be important for any type of scientific research, which students may use for their own research endeavors, but also can show students a glimpse of what real research is like in a crystallography and therapeutic drug discovery setting for the treatment of diseases.

Over the last couple of years, STARS had been supported by the American Crystallographic Association (ACA), the ACA conference attendees, Hampton Research, Bruker, and Dectris USA. Their supports have enabled the 2022 Cobb Country Crystal-Growing Competition Awards Ceremony, the 2024 Crystallography Workshops (five of them), and the upcoming 2025 Walton HS Crystallography and the 2025 Dodgen MS Crystallography Workshops.

So far, STARS already has two STARS branches, where student leaders bring STARS programming and outreach to life. However, to truly provide all students in the United States the crystal-growing and crystallography opportunities to learn valuable scientific skills and be inspired in research for the treatment of diseases, STARS aims to (1) streamline its club programming and outreach activities with clear guidance and handouts, which can enable their programs to scale up; (2) foster inter-STARS branch communications and collaborations to form a network of research-focused students through their annual STARS meetings; (3) enable students more accessible opportunities to give presentations at the American Crystallographic Association (ACA) conference through the STARS Travel Grant; and (4) engage more K-12th and undergraduate students in not only inorganic crystal growing, but also protein crystallography through national crystallography competitions of proteins (such as with lysozyme, the chicken egg white protein).

These programs and ambitions that STARS has for American students, STARS’ true values and its existence purpose, would only be possible if STARS can solicit larger donations from the public and corporations, possible only if STARS has the recognized tax exempt 501(c)3 status.

Although Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society is a relatively new entity, they have generated considerable interest from me. Currently, though I am not committing to provide the Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society with any monetary funds, I am endorsing the Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society and its mission and programs for providing students nation-wide with valuable scientific experiences and skills to engage and empower them in crystallography and scientific research.

Their expedited review request is extremely important, since they intend on fundraising from the public and from exhibiting corporations at the American Crystallographic Association (ACA) conference this summer in July. These donation supports will allow their programs to seriously kick start their operations and engage in the educational and scientific impacts needed for more students. However, these donations will only be possible to the Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society (STARS) contingent on STARS being approved as a tax-exempt organization as soon as possible, otherwise it will be hard for STARS to exhibit themselves as a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization at the conference.

Without the tax exempt 501(c)3 status and without the donations, the Structural Nucleic Acid Anticancer Research Society may not have adequate funding to seriously begin its charitable efforts. This letter is a written confirmation of my endorsement of the IRS Form 1023 review expedite request submitted by STARS.

Sincerely,

[Your signature]

Your name, title, University, and date