

Chicago **EYES** on Cancer

Educators and **Y**outh **E**njoy **S**cience

Dear Recommender,

Thank you for agreeing to support an applicant to the Chicago EYES on Cancer program. EYES welcomes high school and undergraduate students to explore exciting careers in cancer research. Participants work full time for two consecutive summers in the laboratories of established cancer researchers, gaining hands-on experience in areas at the forefront of the field: cancer immunology, pharmacogenomics of anticancer agents, bioengineering, experimental cancer therapeutics, cancer disparities and more. The summer experience also includes career development and skill-building workshops, a cancer-based faculty lecture series, individualized mentoring and a culminating research symposium for family, friends and members of the scientific community. During the school year, participants complete monthly activities exposing them to key facets of the cancer field, from basic scientific concepts to patient care and advocacy. More information about the program can be found here: www.uchicagomedicine.org/EYES.

Admission to Chicago EYES on Cancer is highly competitive: approximately ten new participants are selected each year. Successful applicants demonstrate a passion for science and an interest in careers in biomedicine, a strong academic record and the maturity and drive to perform in a professional research setting. **Please tell us why your applicant is right for EYES by completing the online recommendation form at https://redcap.link/EYES_rec_2022.** Be prepared to provide your name and contact information, a description of your relationship to the applicant (i.e., your qualifications as a recommender) and responses to the following questions:

- What qualities have you observed in the applicant that suggest they are prepared to meet the demands of a professional research environment?
- How would you describe the applicant's academic performance and preparation for a program of this kind? Please write "N/A" if you feel unqualified to comment on the applicant's academic background.
- What do you feel the applicant has most to gain from a program of this kind?
- What else is important for us to know about the applicant?

For full consideration, recommendations should be submitted by **11:59PM on Monday, January 24, 2022**. Please direct all questions to EYES@bsd.uchicago.edu or call 773-702-4678. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Megan A. Mekinda, PhD
Assistant Director for Cancer Education
University of Chicago Medicine Comprehensive Cancer Center