

# researchHStart

Motivation • Scholarship • Vision

Dear Recommender,

Thank you for agreeing to support an applicant to the researchHStart program. ResearchHStart welcomes high school students from the Chicago and Urbana-Champaign areas to explore exciting careers in cancer research. Participants work full time 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. Rigorous research training is complemented by career development and skill-building workshops, a cancer-based faculty lecture series, and a network of faculty and peer mentors dedicated to students' success. The program culminates in a research symposium for family, friends, and members of the scientific community. More information about the program can be found at [www.uchicagomedicine.org/researchHStart](http://www.uchicagomedicine.org/researchHStart).

Admission to researchHStart is highly competitive. No more than 30 participants will be selected across sites: University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois at Chicago, Northwestern University, and Rush University. Successful applicants demonstrate a passion for science, an interest in careers in biomedicine, and the maturity and drive to perform in a professional research setting.

Please tell us why your applicant is right for researchHStart by completing the online recommendation form, accessible here: [https://redcap.link/RS\\_rec\\_2024](https://redcap.link/RS_rec_2024). 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 do you feel the applicant has most to gain from a program of this kind?
- 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?
- What else is important for us to know about the applicant?

For full consideration, recommendations should be submitted by **11:59 PM Central on Monday, January 22, 2024**. Please direct all questions to [researchHStart@bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:researchHStart@bsd.uchicago.edu) or call 773-702-9699. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Megan A. Mekinda, PhD  
Director, researchHStart



Comprehensive  
Cancer Center

