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.

Admission to researchHStart is highly competitive: no more than 24 participants will be selected across sites (University of Chicago, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Northwestern University). 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 the researchHStart program by completing the online recommendation form, accessible here: http://j.mp/2CT2Xye. 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:

• How would you describe the nature of the applicant’s interest in science and careers in biomedicine?
• What qualities have you observed in the applicant that suggest s/he is 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 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 must be submitted by midnight on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Please direct all questions to researchHStart@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