Dear Colleagues,

I serve as the Director of Graduate Studies for the Astrophysics PhD program at Smith University.  I am writing to provide formal support for Robert's application for a SAO Predoctoral Fellowship. Robert had been admitted to our PhD and he is now enrolled as a full-time graduate student at Smith University.  I approve of Robert's plan to pursue doctoral research at SAO.  I understand that if his application is approved, a Predoctoral Research Review Committee that includes his SAO adviser will be established to monitor and support his research activities.

Dr. Andrew Xiong

Associate Professor

Division of Graduate Studies in Astronomy

Department of Physics & Astronomy

Smith University