January 20, 2015

Gabor Fichtinger

Professor and Cancer Care Ontario Research Chair

Queen’s University, Canada

Dear Dr. Fichtinger,

I am writing to give my enthusiastic support for your NIH R01 proposal “Slicer+PLUS: Collaborative, open-source software for ultrasound analysis.”

I have been using PLUS for the past several years, and it has become a critical tool in my research. It has allowed me to rapidly develop my image-guided therapy platform, for my NIH-funded projects. It has the methods that I need, and I encourage the NIH to support its continued development and maintenance.

One of the aspects of PLUS that sets it apart from other tools is its infrastructure. The website and email lists are excellent. The online and conference-based tutorials are extremely helpful. The quality of the software on multiple platforms is outstanding. Clearly, the infrastructure that is in place is one of the key components of PLUS’s broad success. It is difficult to imagine that PLUS’s ongoing and future success would be possible without direct support for that infrastructure.

I also welcome honing its integration with 3D Slicer. While the linkages do currently exist, further documentation and stronger integration of the capabilities of PLUS into the Slicer interface would save much redundancy and increase the rate of research across multiple disciplines.

For these and numerous other reasons, I strongly encourage the NIH to support your proposal.

Best regards,