January 20, 2015

Stephen R. Aylward, Ph.D.

Senior Director of Operations, North Carolina

Kitware, Inc.

101 East Weaver St., G4

Carrboro, NC 27510

Dear Dr. Aylward

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 3D Slicer for the past several years, and it has become a critical tool in my research. It has allowed me to rapidly view, segment, and register medical images 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 3D Slicer 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 Slicer’s broad success. It is difficult to imagine that Slicer’s ongoing and future success would be possible without direct support for that infrastructure.

Another aspect of 3D Slicer that sets it apart is its extensibility. Over the past six months there has been a significant expansion in the modules that are available for 3D Slicer via its “app store” (the extension manager). These community-contributed modules are touching on a wide diversity of challenging tasks in medical imaging. Via these plug-ins, Slicer is quickly becoming a hub for the development and exchange of cutting-edge research.

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

Best regards,