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To: Rector of Taras Schevchenko National University of Kyiv

Academician of The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU)

Professor Leonid V. Guberskii

Subject: Acknowledgement to scientific and scientific pedagogical team of the faculty of chemistry

Dear Professor Leonid V. Guberskii,

My name is Laurean Ilies, Team Leader in the RIKEN Center for Sustainable Resource Science in Japan. I would like to greatly acknowledge the scientific and scientific pedagogical team of the faculty of chemistry of Taras Schevchenko National University of Kyiv for both theoretical and practical high-quality knowledge in the field they gave to their former PhD student Olena Kuleshova during the educational PhD program 10 “Natural sciences”, specialization 102 “Chemistry”, educational level “PhD student”.

Dr. Kuleshova joined my team on the 1st of November 2018, right after her PhD thesis defense, as an International Research Fellow of Japan Society of Promotion of Science (Postdoctoral fellow for Research in Japan (Standard)). This is the most prestigious fellowship in Japan, and her proposal being selected against a very high competition illustrates her strong background in chemistry, vision of research, and talent in expressing that vision. After coming to Japan, she started working on the most ambitious project in my group: direct functionalization of carbon resources such as arenes, an unsolved problem in organic synthetic chemistry that can revolutionize the way we make molecules. She designed and synthesized a series of new ligands, and she used these to create new metal catalysts that can recognize polar arenes and selectively activate them. We hope to finalize this project soon, and I believe that her work will have a strong impact on the organic chemistry community.

Finally, I must say that Dr. Olena Kuleshova is a true ambassador of Ukrainian science and culture in Japan. Her friendly character and keen interest into the Japanese society and culture, including outreach activities such as lectures for high school children, helped create a valuable academic bridge between Japan and Ukraine.

Yours sincerely,

Laurean Ilies, Ph.D.

Team Leader

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