NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the closing of 2022, STARS celebrates three years as an organization. How much the world has changed during those three years!

In December 2019 when we launched STARS Network at the Embassy of Sweden in the United States, few of us anticipated spending months in isolation due to COVID-19 in the coming year, or the rapid response from various scientific fields to meet the challenges arising throughout the pandemic. In the areas of technology, medicine, and social science we saw rapid advances, with new technological solutions, the development of several vaccines against COVID-19, and many social innovations to stay connected.

As President for STARS, I’m proud of the work STARS has been able to accomplish during these three years, and I’m looking forward to the opportunities that lay ahead. 2023 will be an exciting year for STARS, with many improvements in the pipeline, so stay tuned through our newsletter and social media channels (LinkedIn and Twitter) for more information as we start the new year.

I wish you a wonderful end of 2022, and a great start to 2023. As ever, if you have questions about STARS’ work, or suggestions for how we can better support you, please do not hesitate to reach out at sofia@starsnetwork.org.

Below is a brief summary of the work STARS has been involved with in 2022.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During 2022, a key focus of STARS’ work has been building organizational structure by appointing a Board of Directors who will continue to work together in the new year, in collaboration with our partners, to develop STARS’ work.

The board consists of four members:

- **Sofia Sedergren-Booker (President)** manages the overall growth and development of the organization.
- **Alondra Schweizer Burguete (Partnership Chair for the United States)** works with organizations and universities in Sweden and the United States to find new ways to collaborate.
- **Ellen Gute (Partnership Chair for Canada)** connects with organizations and universities in Sweden and Canada to find new areas of collaboration.
- **Kelley Swanberg (Event Chair)** manages the planning and logistics of STARS events.

In the first few months since the board’s founding, we have achieved the following:

- Updated and refined STARS’ mission, vision, and strategic plan;
- Outlined an event plan for 2023;
- Initiated conversations for new and improved partnerships with actors working in the same space as STARS to benefit our members’ professional development and engagement with other researchers.

If you want to join the board to help contribute to this work, please don’t hesitate to reach out at sofia@starsnetwork.org.

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EVENTS

Alongside the work to establish a Board of Directors, STARS continued to host networking and professional development events for our members. In 2022, STARS organized 4 events: 2 networking events and 2 webinars.

Thank you to all the participants who made our events a success, and to our partners and presenters for making these events possible:

EURAXESS North America
The Hellenic Bioscientific Association of the USA
Intertalents in Sweden
Emigreat

If you’d like to watch STARS’ webinars they are available below:

- **U.S. visa options and residency pathways for European Scientific Diaspora researchers**
- **Moving (back) to Sweden: How to get the most out of your international credentials**

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PARTNERSHIPS

This year, STARS also initiated two new partnerships to increase the reach of our work:

**Intertalents in Sweden** offers educational material, online courses, e-books and downloadable templates that empower foreign-born professionals towards career success in Sweden.

**SIREUS** focuses on knowledge exchange in innovation, science and entrepreneurship and increased talent mobility for students and researchers between Sweden and the USA.

To learn more about STARS’ partners, please visit our [website](https://starsnetwork.org).

MEMBERSHIP & REACH

In 2022, STARS membership grew by 10 %, and the number of followers on STARS’ social media channels increased by 34 %.

In total, we’ve reached close to 35,500 impressions across LinkedIn and Twitter, where STARS shares information about job opportunities, conversations in higher education, upcoming events, and more.

If you’re not already following us on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com), please consider doing so!

Thank you for reading! We appreciate your support for STARS Network.

Happy New Year!

Sofia Sedergren-Booker

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ABOUT STARS NETWORK

STARS (Swedish Trans-Atlantic Researchers and Scholars) Network’s mission is to connect researchers, scholars, scientists, and students in North America and Sweden to foster collaborative research and mobility between the two regions by helping members grow their network, and improve access to information about funding options, research, and professional development opportunities.

STARS aims to inspire and foster transatlantic research collaborations and help members identify and navigate new professional opportunities in Sweden and North America. We develop an information hub harboring relocation, funding, and academic advice resources to support STARS members’ professional development.

To learn more about STARS’ work, visit our website starsnetwork.org