

24th March 2025

To whom it may concern,

Re: Miss Anastasia Lubarsky

I am writing to support Ms Lubarsky's application to attend the Hong Kong Laureate forum.

Ms Lubarsky has made excellent progress in her PhD studies so far, and has demonstrated herself as a highly motivated, talented scientist. In her work to-date, she has discovered that humans who go on to develop epilepsy following acute brain injuries have higher blood concentrations of the inflammatory marker interleukin 6, and is currently using cutting-edge flow cytometry techniques to understand how this signalling pathway effects patients at a cellular level. She has also successfully applied for funding to run an interventional pre-clinical study exploring whether blocking interleukin 6 signalling after TBI prevents epilepsy in mice.

Attendance at the Hong Kong Laureate Forum would give her an unparalleled opportunity to interact with scientists at a similar stage across a number of disciplines, thus broadening her perspectives on her own work, as well as developing important skills such as networking and presentation, that her current programme only gives limited exposure to.

Given the burden of international fees for her PhD programme, she would benefit substantially from any financial assistance (i.e. travel grant) that the committee can provide.

Yours faithfully,



Edward Needham PhD MRCP

Clinical Lead for Neuroimmunology, Cambridge University Hospitals
Senior Clinical Research Associate, University of Cambridge