



SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

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香港大學  
生物科學學院  
香港薄扶林道  
嘉道理生物科學大樓

March 25, 2025

Selection Committee  
Life Sciences Category, Hong Kong Laureate Forum

Dear Admissions Committee,

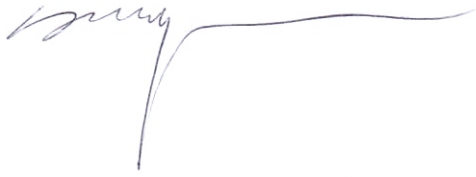
It is my pleasure to write this recommendation letter in support of Ms Simay Yuksel, who is applying to the Forum 2025 in Life Sciences and Medicine. As a first-year undergraduate student in the Science Master Class at HKU, a prestigious double-degree programme for outstanding students in research, Simay strives to go above and beyond the traditional Bachelor of Science curriculum and simultaneously studies her Master of Research degree, accelerating her research career at an early stage in the university.

I met Simay in early September 2024 when she reached out to me for her research interests in Molecular Biology. Through our discussions, she attracted my attention with her curiosity and thought-provoking questions about biology, making me enthusiastic to guide her through her academic interests and studies as her Academic Adviser. Before coming to HKU, she **received an official patent** for a project on an epigenetic data-based early detection model for neurodegenerative diseases and featured in national official news. Furthermore, she **published a research paper** on the Application of CRISPR/Cas9 to Manipulate iPSCs for Alzheimer's Disease, demonstrating her exceptional research skills, dedication, and passion for Life Sciences. Her achievements in Molecular Biology and academic excellence led to her unconditional acceptance into the Science Master Class Programme with an **HKU Scholarship for Future Leaders**. She continues her research-oriented academic career under the Faculty of Science's Summer Research Fellowship, where she will conduct an interdisciplinary research on engineering CAR-Macrophages for ovarian cancer this summer.

Over the time we spent together, she earned my implicit trust and respect with her good communication and kindness in addition to her curiosity, strong capabilities, and clear sense of direction in Molecular Biology. She is well-equipped to provide unique perspectives on Life Sciences & Medicine, and confidently she will be an asset to the Forum. I have high expectations for her future accomplishments as an ambitious young scientist in the Life Sciences field and would be delighted to witness her outstanding performance at the Forum.

Should you need more information about Simay Yuksel, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aixin Yan', followed by a long horizontal line that curves downwards at the end.

Prof. Aixin Yan,  
Professor of Molecular and Cellular Biology,  
School of Biological Sciences,  
Faculty of Science,  
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