



## Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025

Dear members of the selection committee,

### Recommendation for Miss Wong Wing Yan Barbara

It is with great pleasure to write a support for Miss Wong Wing Yan Barbara to attend the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. Barbara joined my research team in October 2024 as a first-year DPhil student in Primary Health Care at The University of Oxford, having being the only successful candidate on the prestigious Hong Kong Scholarship for Excellence Scheme in 2024. Her research focuses on using big data to better understand the safety and efficacy of novel treatments for patients with chronic kidney disease and frailty. Within the first few months of her study, Barbara begun a systematic review on this topic, which has involved developing a research protocol and screening over 6,000 research papers for inclusion in the systematic review. In doing this she has worked independently and demonstrated excellent organizational skills to progress the project quickly.

Barbara has a genuine enthusiasm for using innovative technologies in medical applications and this is evident in her previous work. She has completed programming courses at Harvard and IBM, funded by the prestigious Innovation and Technology Scholarship, of which she was the youngest recipient during her undergraduate studies. She also became the youngest member to win the Huawei Mindspore Pathology AI Diagnosis Challenge, where her team developed a lung cancer AI diagnostic model, earning the 'pitching score runner-up' award.

Barbara is keen to develop her knowledge in new areas and shows very close attention to detail, and important attributes of any good young scientist. She articulates her thoughts both in writings and talks extremely well and is persuasive in her scientific arguments. Attending the Hong Kong Laureate Forum would provide an excellent opportunity for Barbara to hone and enhance these skills and therefore I fully support her application to attend this prestigious event. I have every confidence that she will gain profound insights shared by esteemed Shaw Laureates and distinguished scientists and engage dynamically in discussions. Her contributions will undoubtedly foster a vibrant spirit of collaboration and innovation, enriching the intellectual discourse at the Forum.

Barbara is a rising star in my team and I recommend her to you without reservation. Please feel free to contact me for any further information.

Yours sincerely

Prof James Sheppard