

Hong Kong Laureate Forum
Scientific Review Panel
22nd March 2025

Dear Members of the Review Committee,

I am pleased to provide my enthusiastic support for Mr. Damien Chua's application to the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. As Damien's primary PhD supervisor at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, I have had the privilege to closely witness his remarkable academic growth and unwavering commitment to excellence. Damien is undoubtedly emerging as a globally competitive leader poised to make substantial impacts in basic and translational biomedical sciences.

Damien's research has significantly advanced our understanding of Metabolic Dysfunction-associated Steatotic Liver Disease (MASLD), particularly through illuminating the critical role of Angiotensin-like 4 (Angptl4) in gut-liver communication. His groundbreaking work has garnered international recognition, evident through prominent presentations at esteemed scientific gatherings, including the Asian Pacific Association for the Study of the Liver (APASL), the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL), and the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases (AASLD).

A distinctive strength of Damien's is his exceptional interdisciplinary expertise, seamlessly integrating mechanistic laboratory research, advanced bioinformatics, and clinical data science. His sophisticated application of single-cell omics and multi-omics integration to translate experimental findings into robust computational models demonstrates his innovative approach and deep comprehension of complex biological systems. Damien's ability to effectively bridge foundational biology and translational research consistently propels innovation and impactful discoveries.

Beyond his scientific acumen, Damien exemplifies outstanding leadership capabilities, notably through orchestrating and managing extensive international collaborations across teams in Thailand, China, India, and Singapore. His proactive leadership style, combined with his collaborative mindset, positions him as an exceptional connector in the global scientific community. Damien's strong intellectual curiosity, resilience, and dedication have earned him deep respect from peers and collaborators alike.

Damien's academic track record is equally impressive, having been honored with prestigious national awards such as the Nanyang Presidential Graduate Scholarship and the A*STAR Undergraduate Scholarship. He achieved a flawless GPA of 5.00/5.00, underscoring his outstanding intellectual capabilities. Additionally, his leadership roles, including serving as President of the LKCMedicine Graduate Students' Club, highlight his commitment to enriching his community and fostering professional growth among his peers.

Damien Chua is an extraordinary young scientist whose unique combination of scientific talent, interdisciplinary expertise, leadership, and collaborative spirit makes him an ideal candidate for the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. I am confident he will significantly contribute to the Forum's success and will emerge as a prominent future leader in biotechnology and translational research.

Thank you for considering Damien's application. Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact me directly.



Nguan Soon TAN, Andrew (PhD)
Vice Dean (Innovations & Enterprise)
Provost's Chair of Metabolic Disorders
Associate Professor of Metabolic Disorders
Nutrition, Metabolism & Health Programme
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, NTU Singapore
Joint faculty, School of Biological Sciences, NTU Singapore
Website: <https://dr.ntu.edu.sg/cris/rp/rp00393>