

LEE KONG CHIAN
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE



Imperial College
London

REDEFINING MEDICINE, TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE

Hong Kong Laureate Forum
Scientific Review Panel
22nd March 2025

To the Review Committee,

I am writing to strongly support Mr. Damien Chua's application for the HK Laureate Forum. As Damien's co-supervisor, I have had the privilege of witnessing his significant growth, not only as a researcher but also as a future leader in the field of translational bioscience. Throughout his PhD journey at LKCMedicine, Damien has consistently demonstrated exceptional initiative in bridging the gap between basic biology and clinical medicine.

As a physician-scientist, I have been particularly impressed by Damien's proactive approach in seeking opportunities for collaboration with clinicians. Despite being a basic scientist, his passion for improving patient care and his relentless drive to deepen clinical understanding have set him apart. His fervent desire to engage with world-class clinicians has resulted in meaningful partnerships, and I have connected him with experts in the field who recognize his potential. His work in Shenzhen, China, during his time at SUSTech, and the completion of several independent and collaborative projects, has showcased his ability to adapt, lead, and thrive in diverse research environments. The results of these collaborations are evident in his research output, including multiple successful publications and a co-first author paper that is now under review.

Damien has also demonstrated outstanding leadership in expanding his professional network. Through his active participation in international clinical hepatology conferences, he has forged valuable connections with clinicians and researchers from leading institutions, including Singapore (KTPH, TTSH, NUH and SGH), Thailand (Chulalongkorn University Hospital), and China (Shenzhen People's Hospital). These relationships further emphasize his ability to connect with and learn from global leaders in clinical and translational research.

Damien's impressive research contributions extend beyond his individual efforts. He has demonstrated remarkable versatility by working across various disciplines, particularly in wet and dry lab environments. His technical expertise spans both experimental biology and computational analysis, allowing him to leverage single-cell, spatial transcriptomics and multi-omics integration to solve complex biological questions. This unique skill set makes him an asset to any collaborative project and reflects his ability to bridge the gap between basic science and translational applications.

With his combination of clinical engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, and research acumen, Damien is poised to be a competitive leader in translational biosciences. He has the rare ability to integrate clinical insights into basic research and vice versa, making him an asset in the development of innovative therapeutic strategies. I am confident that he will continue to make impactful contributions to both science and patient care.

I highly recommend Damien for the HK Laureate Forum and believe he will bring invaluable perspectives to the discussions and collaborations that the Forum promotes.

www.lkcmedicine.ntu.edu.sg

Headquarters and Clinical Sciences Building
11 Mandalay Road
Singapore 308232

Experimental Medicine Building
Nanyang Technological University
Yunnan Garden Campus
59 Nanyang Drive,
Singapore 636921

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,



A/Prof Sunny Wong
Assistant Dean, Academic Medicine
Associate Professor of Nutrition, Digestion and Metabolism
Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine
Nanyang Technological University
Email: sunny.wong@ntu.edu.sg