



Prof. Joshua W.K. Ho
Associate Professor

31st March 2025

To whom it may concern,

Recommendation for Ernest Yip

I am writing to provide my *strongest support* of Mr Ernest Yip for his application as a Young Scientist at the Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025. Ernest is simply among **the very best** undergraduate and postgraduate students I have mentored in the last six years at the University of Hong Kong (HKU). Ernest is a third-year medical student enrolled in our Faculty's Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme, and currently pursuing a master's degree at Harvard Medical School. I am his MBBS academic advisor. Ernest underwent a summer research internship in my Bioinformatics and Digital Health Laboratory at HKU.

Ernest is academically excellent. Having achieved a perfect score in the IB Diploma examination (45/45) in 2022, he was admitted to medical school as a President's Scholar and Medical Dean's Scholar. As his academic advisor, I can see that Ernest continues to excel in his academic study throughout his medical studies. He was awarded a highly prestigious Laidlaw Undergraduate Research & Leadership Scholarship in 2023. This unique scholarship enabled him to gain first-hand research experience in digital health and computational genomics in my laboratory at Laboratory of Data Discovery for Health (D²4H). He was subsequently selected to present his research at global conferences in London, Dublin and New York, and received Best Research Engagement Award. He also undertook ethical leadership training at University of Oxford. His outstanding achievements led to an appointment as a Board Member of Laidlaw Foundation to steer its undergraduate research for 2500 scholars across 20 global universities.

In addition to his outstanding academic achievements, Ernest stands out among his peers of medical students as having strong leadership qualities and an unmatched sense of community service. Ernest is a leader in his class. He is our University's student ambassador, and class representative of his MBBS cohort of 300 students. In these roles, Ernest has been instrumental in university-wide outreach activities to underserved communities, academic reviews and accreditation exercises. He is an important and effective bridge between the student community and the Faculty. His leadership quality is also very apparent to all our teachers. In 2023, he organised a faculty-wide medical service trip to rural China to provide medical services and health literacy education to youths and Thalassaemic patients, with Red Cross China. He mentors SEN and ethnic minorities youths to promoting upward social mobility, inviting them to join health advocacy events in public estates and teaches genetics, medical ethics, digital health to junior medical students. He is an executive committee member of 'Medical Outreachers HK, which aims to bring medical services to underserved communities in HK and Asia. His selfless contributions whilst continuously thriving in Medicine is truly admirable.

Prior to entering college, Ernest already an impressive list of. He was the President of Hong Kong Outstanding Students' Association and been appointed a Council Member since 2023 to further youth development in Hong Kong.

Without a doubt, Ernest is a future leader in HK and beyond. We should do everything possible to nurture this promising talent. I recommend Ernest to you without reservation.

Yours faithfully,

Joshua W. K. Ho, PhD
Assistant Dean (Innovation & Technology Transfer)
Deputy Director in Educational Technology (AI)
Associate Professor, LKS Faculty of Medicine, University of Hong Kong