Good [morning/afternoon/evening], esteemed laureates, distinguished guests, and fellow young scientists. It is a privilege to be here today at the Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025, an event that unites pioneering scientists and emerging researchers in the pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

Scientific progress is built upon collaboration, curiosity, and the relentless drive to improve human health and well-being. As we gather here, we have a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions that will shape the future of research and clinical practice.

[Personal Introduction & Research Focus]

My name is Dr. Mohammad Kassar, and my work focuses on valvular heart disease, interventional treatment, and advanced cardiovascular imaging. With cardiovascular diseases remaining the leading cause of mortality worldwide, my research aims to enhance minimally invasive interventions for valvular heart disease, improving patient outcomes through transcatheter techniques and advanced imaging modalities.

In recent years, the field of structural heart interventions has evolved significantly, providing less invasive alternatives for patients who were previously considered inoperable. Transcatheter edge-to-edge repair, valve replacement techniques, and multimodality imaging innovations have revolutionized the way we approach valvular disease management. However, several clinical challenges remain, including patient selection, procedural optimization, and long-term durability of these interventions.

[Significance of the Forum]

The Hong Kong Laureate Forum represents an extraordinary platform for interdisciplinary exchange. By bringing together experts from diverse scientific backgrounds—including medicine, engineering, and computational sciences—we can drive innovation and refine existing therapeutic strategies.

Engaging with world-renowned laureates and fellow young scientists allows us to explore novel approaches, challenge our perspectives, and foster collaborations that can accelerate scientific breakthroughs. As imaging technology and interventional techniques advance, the integration of artificial intelligence, computational modeling, and real-time imaging guidance will play a crucial role in precision medicine and patient-centered interventions.

[The Future of Science & Collaboration]

The future of valvular heart disease treatment lies in a multidisciplinary and collaborative approach. Engineers, clinicians, and data scientists must work together to develop next-

generation imaging techniques, biocompatible prosthetic devices, and AI-driven diagnostic tools to optimize patient care.

As young scientists, it is our responsibility to push the boundaries of discovery, translate research into clinical practice, and ensure that innovative treatments reach those who need them most. Platforms like the Hong Kong Laureate Forum empower us to engage in cross-disciplinary learning, shaping the future of medicine and healthcare.

[Closing Remarks]

I am truly honored to participate in this forum, where the exchange of knowledge can inspire transformative advancements in science and medicine. I look forward to engaging in insightful discussions, learning from distinguished laureates, and building collaborations that will drive the next era of cardiovascular innovation.

Let us work together to advance scientific discovery, improve patient care, and shape the future of interventional cardiology and imaging.

Thank you.