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### To whom it may concern

I am writing with great enthusiasm to recommend Dr. Kalindu Fernando for consideration as a young researcher at the Laurate Forum 2025. After completing his doctoral degree, Dr. Fernando joined the Department of Chemical and Process Engineering (DCPE) at the University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, as a Lecturer on a contract basis, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. Though early in his academic career and not yet an independent researcher, Dr. Fernando demonstrates immense promise and determination in advancing cutting-edge research and mentoring the next generation of scientists.

During his short tenure at DCPE, Dr. Fernando has made significant contributions to both undergraduate teaching and research activities related to sustainability and bioengineering. His teaching style blends theoretical knowledge with practical applications, which greatly enhances students' learning experiences. Dr. Fernando's research expertise lies predominantly in bioprocess modeling and simulations, a rapidly evolving field with vast interdisciplinary applications. Despite being at an early stage of his career, he has an impressive publication record, including three journal articles in high-impact Q1 journals, which speak volumes about the quality and relevance of his research. Additionally, his international presence is notable; he has presented three abstracts at international conferences and delivered two poster presentations at globally renowned platforms such as the Material Research Society (US), American Chemical Society (US), and Controlled Release Society (US) annual meetings. These achievements underscore his ability to contribute meaningfully to global scientific discussions.

What further distinguishes Dr. Fernando is his visionary aspiration to establish a bioprocess modeling research laboratory at DCPE. Dr. Fernando's leadership potential, combined with his technical expertise, positions him uniquely to spearhead impactful research initiatives. Moreover, Dr. Fernando possesses several key attributes that I believe are essential for a promising researcher. He is intellectually curious, highly motivated, and displays a remarkable capacity for interdisciplinary collaboration. His strong analytical skills, coupled with his proficiency in computational modeling tools, enable him to approach complex research problems innovatively. His excellent communication skills further allow him to convey complex scientific ideas effectively, making him a valuable contributor in collaborative research environments.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that participation in the Laurate Forum 2025 would be a transformative opportunity for Dr. Fernando. His dedication, scholarly potential, and forward-thinking research goals align perfectly with the mission of the Laurate Forum. I have no doubt that he will not only gain immensely from this experience but also contribute positively to the discourse among distinguished participants.

Please feel free to contact me should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

**Prof. (Mrs) Shantha M. Egodage**  
Head of the Department  
Department of Chemical & Process Engineering  
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