Karolinska Institutet

August 5, 2024

It is my great pleasure to recommend Dr. Le Tong for the postdoctoral position at the Department of Biosystems Science and Engineering of ETH Zurich in Basel and Novartis AG, Basel. I have known Le for over six years, starting when she was a master's student and later as her doctoral thesis advisor, and I strongly believe that she is the ideal candidate for this position.

Le graduated her PhD in my laboratory at the Department of Oncology-Pathology at Karolinska Institutet in April 2024. In her doctoral thesis, she investigated NK cell activity in kidney cancer (https://openarchive.ki.se/xmlui/handle/10616/49021). Specifically, she investigated various mechanisms underlying the crosstalk between immune cells and cancer cells. Throughout her projects she gained extensive experience in immunology and cell biology and deepened her knowledge in kidney physiology and pathophysiology. She also became proficient in several techniques including advanced *in vitro* models, organoid culture, microscopy, and various biochemical assays.

During her studies, she worked autonomously and identified the need to seek new knowledge and developed novel assays that are invaluable to the progress of the laboratory. In addition to her research activity, Le played a major role in training junior faculty in my lab. For example, she supervised a project of drug screening of cancer organoids. She has a very pleasant personality, is very social, and is very well liked among her peers. She has good communication skills and is very collaborative, collegial, and productive. In addition to her four studies included in her doctoral thesis, she has co-authored nine publications and two manuscripts. She was also awarded junior research grants and travel awards to present her research at international conferences.

Le clearly falls into the top 5% of all graduate students that I have supervised at Karolinska Institutet. She is very bright, a fast learner, creative, enthusiastic, industrious, and is extremely self-motivated. She has a unique talent for research that is exemplified not only in the way she designs and conducts experiments at a technical level, but also in the interpretation and conclusions of data in a broader context of clinical relevance.

I am delighted that Le has decided to pursue postdoctoral studies at the Bio Engineering Laboratory and Novartis AG in Basel. I believe this position will allow her to develop her skills and that she will contribute greatly to investigate targets and compounds for pharmaceutical intervention of chronic kidney disease. In summary, I give my highest recommendation for Le, as one of the most talented students I have had the opportunity to know. Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding Le.

Sincerely,

Andreas Lundqvist