

29 March 2025

To the selection committee of the Hong Kong Laureate Forum:

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend Ariana Costas for the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. As Ariana's supervisor, I have had the pleasure of witnessing her growth and development as a researcher, and I can confidently attest to her exceptional academic achievements, outstanding research potential, and remarkable commitment to public outreach and engagement.

Ariana has consistently demonstrated a passion for scientific research, with a strong academic record that includes a Bachelor of Medical Science with Honors and awards and prizes, such as the Franco-Australian Hubert Curien Partnership Mobility Fund. Her research experience is equally impressive, with presentations at conferences and seminars, including the Faculty of Science Transdisciplinary ECR Retreat, where she won the "Best PhD poster" award.

One of Ariana's strengths is her ability to communicate scientific concepts to a broad audience. I am impressed by Ariana's strong communication and presentation skills, which I have observed through her oral presentations at conferences and seminars. Her ability to effectively communicate her research to diverse audiences is a valuable asset. She is also an enthusiastic participant in public outreach and engagement activities, including mentoring young students. Her experience in mentoring high school students through the Apprentis Chercheurs program has been particularly noteworthy, demonstrating her mentoring skills. I have no doubt that she would be an excellent representative at the Hong Kong Laureate Forum.

I also take the opportunity, as I review the lineup of invited laureates and selection committees for the Forum, to note that there is a significant imbalance in terms of gender representation. With only one female laureate among the invited speakers and two of the three selection committees comprised entirely of men, the Forum could benefit from greater diversity and balance. As the Forum aims to provide role models and networking opportunities for students, it is essential to ensure that the representation of women in science is more reflective of the community as a whole. I hope that in future iterations, the Forum will strive to achieve a more balanced representation of women and men in science.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that Ariana would be an excellent addition to the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. Her academic achievements, research potential, and commitment to public outreach make her an outstanding candidate. I am confident that she would benefit from the opportunity to network with researchers and laureates, and I am pleased to support her application. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,



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