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Date: March 27, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to certify that Ms. Grace Hu is enrolled as a full-time student pursuing a doctoral degree in the Joint UC Berkeley - UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering. Grace has a strong academic record with a 4.0/4.0 GPA, has completed all required coursework, and passed her qualifying exam. She formally advanced to PhD candidacy on April 30, 2024, and plans to file her dissertation and graduate in Spring 2026.

Grace is passionate about 4D-bioprinting research, which involves not only printing with cells, but also considering the temporal changes these cells undergo after being positioned, as they migrate and self-organize. The impact of this work is enabling new technologies that can be used to address the lack of available organs for transplantation by creating on-demand, high-throughput biomaterial designs with a patient's own cells. In this area of research, Grace has published a paper in the journal *Bioprinting*, a review paper published in *MRS Bulletin*, and another review paper for *Cold Spring Harbor Perspectives in Biology*. Additionally, she presented this work at the 2021 NDSEG Fellows Conference (where she received an Exemplary Poster Presentation Award), the Spring Materials Research Society (MRS) Conference in April 2024, and is submitting a first-author paper to *Biomaterials Science* this month. She is making excellent progress towards her graduate studies and is well-positioned to share these exciting research results at an international event like the Hong Kong Laureate Forum.

Grace has received many recognitions and honors for her academic record and outreach activities. She was awarded the prestigious National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship (which has an annual acceptance rate of ~1-2%) to pursue graduate school. Her undergraduate research developing a low-cost scanning electron microscope and industry experience before graduate school showcased her entrepreneurial spirit, making her a prime candidate to become a Bakar BioEngenuity Impact Grant Awardee. Grace has made significant progress in her PhD research on tissue engineering, where she has been awarded the Hearts to Humanity Eternal (H2H8) Graduate Research Grant, named a Berkeley Bioengineering Department Scholar, and recently received the Soroptimist Founder Region Fellowship for her mentorship of three undergraduate students.

Outside of the lab, Grace is dedicated to advancing her community, where she has been recognized with the Exceptional Service & Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging (DEIB) Award for leading initiatives as a DEI Officer and Head Peer Advisor for the joint Bioengineering program. Her interests in translational research have also motivated her to get involved in science policy, where she was selected to represent UCSF at the NIH Rally for Medical Research and AAAS CASE Workshop in Washington D.C., both culminating in a Hill Day where she discussed her biomedical research with members of Congress.

As she heads toward her final year of doctoral training, this global opportunity for talented scholars to network and share scientific research will help Grace make long-lasting connections that bridge cultures and communities. Grace is a leader who sparks positive and innovative change, which will make her an exceptional addition to the Hong Kong Laureate Forum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Sanchez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "R" being particularly large and stylized.

Rocío A. Sanchez, M.A.  
Graduate Program Adviser  
UC Berkeley-UCSF Graduate Program in Bioengineering  
UC Berkeley Department of Bioengineering