

Date 31 maart 2025
Subject Recommendation Letter

To whom it may concern,

I am pleased to offer this letter to support CHAN Valerie Tanya's application for the Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025.

Valerie's research and leadership experience underscore her commitment to impactful science and innovation. To the best of my knowledge, she has led The Chinese University of Hong Kong's (CUHK) International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) to international success by developing an anti-obesity therapy using RNAi-engineered cell lines, highlighting her ability to innovate within the field of biotechnology.

Her research portfolio is further enriched by her work on cardioprotective therapies and chemotherapies, conducted well over a year with a research group at CUHK. This reflects not only her advanced technical expertise but also her passion for contributing to the growth of the region through advancing cutting-edge biomedical solutions.

In addition to her scientific achievements, Valerie has also demonstrated passion for science communication. She conducted interviews with the local press and organized four synthetic biology workshops for secondary school students, educating the public on the significance and societal impact of biomedical research. This shows her commitment to her community, inspiring the next generation of scientists.

Currently, she is conducting her bachelor's thesis research in the Beekman Group at UMC Utrecht under my supervision, focusing on targeting endogenous loci vis CRISPR-Cas9. With a strong desire to bring the technology back home to drive meaningful change in her community, being able to present her current research at the Hong Kong Laureate Forum would most certainly be an asset to her academic growth.

Therefore, I recommend Valerie without reservation for her application. The forum will provide her with the invaluable opportunity to present her research, connect with world-class leaders in the field, and encourage her to dedicate herself to a virtuous career in sciences in the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Yours sincerely,



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