

Letter of Recommendation for

Dr. Hannah Brown

March 25th 2025, Sydney

I'm enthusiastically writing this letter of support for Dr. Hannah Brown, postdoctoral scholar at the Institute for Microbiology and Infection (AIMI) at the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), to attend the Hong Kong Laurate Forum 2025.

I have known Dr. Brown since I started my lab at UTS five years ago, when she completed her Honours degree in the lab of A/Prof. Iain Duggin, for which she was commended on the UTS Dean's Merit List for Academic Excellence in Science. This resulted in that she was awarded a special research excellence PhD scholarship by UTS, one of only a hand full each year.

Throughout her academic journey, Dr. Brown has gone from strength to strength with a stellar upwards trajectory: She was listed author on five publications in 2024 alone, three of which were 'first-name' manuscripts (published or under review, and deposited on BioRxiv). Notably, on two of those was she and her supervisor the only authors, clearly showing that she is capable of driving her projects largely in an independent manner already as an ECR. In addition to her own research, she is supervising Honours students, that have gone on to receiving top marks. As a testament to her dedication for student well-being, she has also served and taken leadership on multiple University committees during her PhD, of note are the UTS HDR student committee, and the University Student Conduct and Student Misconduct Appeals Committee. Being of Cantonese descent herself, Dr. Brown is also strongly involved in the well-being of newly arrived international research students, actively helping them getting accustomed to life and research at UTS and Sydney more broadly.

Dr. Brown is already an incredibly strong presenter, taking her time carefully explaining her work and the reasoning behind each experiment, which has already earned her a few conference presentation awards at top international conferences in her field such as EMBO and Gordon conference series on Archaeal cell biology, a fantastic track record relative to opportunity. Dr. Brown is well known, and liked, in the microbiology community in Australia, particularly amongst EMCRs as she is heavily involved in outreach activities, for example serving several national committees, including the Joint Academic Microbiology Seminars (JAMS) mostly recently as their Treasurer. She is also passionate about science outreach more broadly as evidenced by her participation on the Australian National Science Week and appearing on mainstream radio such as the Triple J and RRR stations disseminating her research to a general audience.

In summary, Dr. Brown is an excellent candidate to attend this exchange event, and will contribute substantially to the Hong Kong Laurate Forum and its success.

Sincerely,



Bill Söderström, PhD
Fellow Australian Society for Microbiology.
Australian Research Council Future Fellow.