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Professor Je-Yoel Cho, DVM, PhD  
Department of Biomedical Sciences,  
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Date: March 27th, 2025

Re: Hong Kong Laureate Recommendation Letter for Vy Ngoc Yen Truong

To Selection Committee Members,

I am writing to provide my recommendation for Ms. Vy N. Truong as a candidate for participation in the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. Ms. Truong is currently pursuing her graduate studies at Seoul National University in the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, where she has distinguished herself through her academic pursuits, research potential, and dedication to advancing scientific knowledge.

Ms. Truong is currently doing research under the supervision of Professor Changku Kang, focusing on butterfly thermal tolerance and thermoregulatory buffering. Her research explores how climate change influences the physiology, behavior, and distribution of butterfly species in Korea. This work contributes to a broader understanding of species' vulnerability to shifting environmental conditions, with significant implications for conservation biology and climate change adaptation. Through her work, Ms. Truong has exhibited exceptional skills in experimental design, data collection, and analytical approaches in ecological physiology.

Prior to joining Seoul National University, Ms. Truong completed her undergraduate studies at Louisiana State University, where she built a strong foundation in both laboratory-based and computational research. She worked under the mentorship of Dr. Andrea Johnston at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine, contributing to a project examining the FGF19 regulatory pathway and its association with hepatobiliary and gastrointestinal diseases in canines. This work culminated in a first-author publication, a significant achievement at the undergraduate level, reflecting her diligence, intellectual maturity, and scientific writing skills.

Additionally, Ms. Truong collaborated with Dr. Brent Stanfield at LSU on the genome classification of Guinea Pig X Virus (GPXV), a novel gammaherpesvirus endogenous to guinea pigs. She successfully conducted comparative genomic analyses to explain the evolutionary relationships of GPXV within the herpesvirus family. She is currently preparing a second first-author manuscript based on this research, further demonstrating her commitment to advancing knowledge in virology and comparative genomics.

Ms. Truong's academic journey is characterized by interdisciplinary research spanning veterinary science, molecular biology, ecology, and bioinformatics. Her dedication to scientific research, coupled with her resilience and international academic experience, make her an ideal candidate for the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. I am confident that her participation will not only enrich the forum but also contribute meaningfully to its mission of fostering the next generation of scientific leaders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue rectangular background. The signature is cursive and appears to read "Je-Yoel Cho".

Je-Yoel Cho, DVM, PhD

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