



21 March 2025

Re: Recommendation for Dr ZHANG Jing

Dear Hong Kong Laureate Forum Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that we write to endorse Dr ZHANG Jing's application to the Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025.

Dr Zhang distinguished herself early as the undergraduate student in Tianjin Medical University's Clinical Medicine program (BSc & MSc, 2019), ranking first among 91 peers. Her clinical rotations at Tianjin Eye Hospital revealed not only technical competence but also a researcher's curiosity - particularly when observing treatment challenges in retinal degenerative diseases, which propelled her to pursue doctoral studies at the School of Optometry, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, in 2020 under our supervision.

As her PhD supervisors, we have witnessed her evolution into an exceptional junior vision scientist poised to make transformative contributions to her field. Dr Zhang's research focuses on understanding the mechanisms of retinal degenerative diseases, such as retinitis pigmentosa and glaucoma. She has developed novel neuroimmune modulation strategies targeting microglial behavior in retinitis pigmentosa as well as novel in vivo models for glaucoma progression monitoring. During her PhD study, she has demonstrated dedication, proactiveness, and diligence in her research, and published 4 papers in Q1 journals (including Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)). Her doctoral thesis was honored with the FHSS Distinguished Thesis Award in 2025.

Beyond technical mastery, Dr Zhang possesses outstanding communication and presentation skills, effectively sharing her findings in a highly structured and logical manner. She actively participates in our department's research seminars and has won the Best Student Presenter Award. Dr Zhang has also actively engaged in international academic exchanges, presenting her research at the prestigious Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) conference as both an oral presenter and a session moderator. These experiences have enriched her academic development and broadened her research perspectives. Upon completing her PhD this year, she has continued her research as a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for Eye and



Vision Research (CEVR), one of the leading research centers funded by the Hong Kong government. This platform allows her to further pursue her research career and contribute to advancements in vision science.

The Hong Kong Laureate Forum provides an exceptional opportunity for young scientists to engage with world-renowned researchers, exchanges ideas, and foster interdisciplinary collaborations. We strongly believe that Dr Zhang's participation in the forum will allow her to gain valuable insights from top scientists, further enhance her research expertise, and contribute meaningfully to discussion in her field. Given her quantifiable research impact, translational vision, and proven capacity for scientific leadership, we highly recommend her for this prestigious forum.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. KEE Chea-su

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Prof. LIN Bin

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