

20 March 2025

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to recommend Julia Huang for participation in the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. As Julia's PhD supervisor at the University of Queensland, I have had the pleasure of working closely with her throughout her doctoral studies. Julia is an exceptional, award-winning researcher with an outstanding commitment to advancing scientific knowledge, and I firmly believe she would make a valuable contribution to the Forum.

Julia's academic achievements have been recognised through multiple awards and scholarships. The awards include many Deans Commendations for Academic Excellence (2019-22), Honours Research Prize (2022), Queensland Annual Chemistry Symposium Best Oral Presentation Prize (2024). The scholarships she has been awarded include UQ Summer Research Scholarship (2021), UQ Young Achievers Scholarship (2019-22), Research Training Program Earmarked Scholarship (2023-2026). Beyond academic excellence, Julia has outstanding teaching skills which she has used to educate students at both high school and university level. The quality of Julia's teaching is evidenced by formal student feedback where she achieved a near perfect score of 4.9/5, there are very few who gain such an impressive ranking. Julia is also active on committees and embraces outreach activities as Ambassador and Volunteer to benefit the community.

Julia's research is at the forefront of life sciences and medicinal chemistry, specifically focusing on developing small molecule inhibitors for inflammasome-related diseases and exploring the therapeutic potential of antifungal peptides. Her work has excellent potential to address global health challenges, particularly in the areas of inflammatory and infectious diseases. Julia's passion for research, combined with her scientific expertise, collaborative spirit and growing leadership skillset, has made her a highly regarded student in our faculty.

Julia's participation in the Hong Kong Laureate Forum would offer her the opportunity to share her innovative research, engage in interdisciplinary discussions, and learn from global experts in translational science. I have no doubt that she would benefit from, and fully embrace, the insights and collaborations offered by the Forum and, in turn, contribute her own valuable perspectives.

I give Julia's application my strongest endorsement and commend her to you for the Hong Kong Laureate Forum. I believe that her participation will be an enriching experience for both her and the Forum community.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is required.

Yours faithfully,



Professor Avril Robertson
Associate Dean Research and Deputy Executive Dean, Faculty of Science
Professor of Biotechnology, School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences
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