



**Department of Medicine Solna**  
Principal researcher and Group leader  
Christopher Sundling, PhD

**To:** Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025 Organizing  
Committee

## **Letter of Recommendation**

I am pleased to write this recommendation letter for Pengjun Xi to apply for the Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025. Pengjun is currently working as a final-year doctoral student in my group at the Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine, Solna at Karolinska Institutet in Sweden.

Pengjun is working on innate-adaptive immune synergy in malaria. He aims to understand how antibodies, derived from the adaptive immune system, potentiate and control innate responses, focusing on natural killer (NK) cells, to malaria parasites in human patients. To do this he is using single-cell RNA sequencing to identify changes in the transcriptome of different immune cell subsets over time after acute malaria. He then connects these changes to function by using advanced single-cell culture assays with live cell imaging, and flow cytometry of stimulated and co-cultured cells, as well as running Luminex to assess the parasite-specific antibody dynamics. By attending the Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025, Pengjun would benefit from presenting his PhD work either by oral presentation or a poster presentation on the Laureate Forum.

Pengjun is a very hardworking and dedicated student. He is engaged in the scientific literature and is always ready to start a new experiment and progress his project. He is highly collaborative and helpful to his colleagues. I highly recommend that Pengjun be accepted for the Forum as I think he could learn much and contribute to good scientific discussions with the other participants.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sundling