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To whom it might concern,

I am pleased to strongly endorse Dr. Anthony Torres-Ruesta's application to The Hong Kong Laureate Forum 2025. As a close collaborator since early 2019, I have worked alongside Dr. Torres-Ruesta in Singapore's national response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2022 Mpox outbreak. Over this period, I have witnessed first-hand his transition from a laboratory scientist to a researcher deeply committed to public health, pandemic preparedness, and policy-driven solutions. His unique combination of scientific expertise and growing engagement in public health issues makes him an outstanding candidate for this program.

Dr. Torres-Ruesta first joined the team in 2018 as a PhD student. He demonstrated being highly-motivated, self-driven, curious and resilient; important qualities needed to succeed in advanced graduate research. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he played a role in Singapore's response, contributing to studies on immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccine efficacy. Our studies resulted in numerous high-impact publications that advanced the understanding of the virus and vaccination strategies in Asian populations. Similarly, during the Mpox outbreak, he actively collaborated with Singapore's National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) to investigate antiviral immune responses, demonstrating his ability to rapidly adapt to emerging public health challenges.

Beyond his research contributions, Dr. Torres-Ruesta is a natural leader and mentor. During his role as a PhD student and, later, Research Fellow representative at A*STAR Infectious Diseases Labs, he fostered collaboration among researchers and led initiatives to strengthen the research community. His commitment to science education was also evident through his participation in outreach activities, mentoring students, and his appointment for the Scientists-in-School (SiS) program supported by Singapore's Ministry of Education.

I firmly believe that Dr. Torres-Ruesta embodies the qualities necessary to excel in the Forum: a strong scientific foundation, critical thinking skills, excellent communication abilities, and a passion for equitable access to health. His participation will not only enhance his own professional development but also contribute valuable expertise to the academic exchange between laureates and young researchers. I have no doubt that he will utilise this opportunity to further his mission of bridging science, policy, and health equity.

I strongly recommend his application without hesitation. Please feel free to contact me if further information is needed.



Dr. Siew-Wai FONG