

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am very much honored to be selected as the recipient of the Jacobson Outstanding Award in Research Project for the Academic Year 2019-2020. Your generous award has encouraged me to further pursue research postgraduate studies by recognizing my research abilities.

Conducting pharmaceutical research has been a lifelong goal since my junior secondary years, when isotretinoin (a medication used to treat acne) successfully not only eradicated my acne but also saved my social life. Believing that research could help to improve the health outcomes of all humankind, I entered the Bachelor of Pharmacy programme to equip myself with the fundamental knowledge in drugs as well as experience in research for future progression.

The objective of my final-year research project was to fabricate a nanoparticle formulation of bosentan, indicated for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH). The field of nanoparticles captured my eye when I undertook a course on advanced drug delivery in Year 3, in which I had a basic understanding on the versatile potential of nanoparticles, e.g. controlled and targeted drug delivery to improve medication efficacy and reduction in adverse effects, etc. Around the same time, I watched a TV documentary where patients with PAH suffered from both long periods of time requiring oxygen therapy as well as adverse effects arising from medications used to treat PAH. I saw potential in developing a nanoparticle formulation to improve the efficacy and safety of PAH therapies and such proposed the abovementioned project as my final-year research project under the supervision of Dr. Aviva SF Chow, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy who has also formerly worked as a research lead in your corporation. Unfortunately due to COVID-19, most of the planned research work could not be performed. Nevertheless, preliminary study to fabricate bosentan-loaded nanoparticles have been successfully conducted and a basic understanding on the factors that affect the fabrication of such nanoparticles have been elucidated.

My final-year project has been rewarding as it not only strengthened my knowledge in the field of nanoparticles but also fueled my interest in research. As such, I am actively planning to pursue research postgraduate studies in nanomedicine either locally or overseas after completion of my pre- registration internship, with the ultimate goal of returning to Hong Kong to take up a professoriate position in one of the pharmacy schools to not only continue my research but to also nurture the next generation of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists. I am now planning to apply to various renowned universities, including University College London, University of Toronto, etc. to pursue my research postgraduate studies, and

the prize money would be used to support my application expenses as well as tuition fees/living expenses shall I successfully apply to such universities.

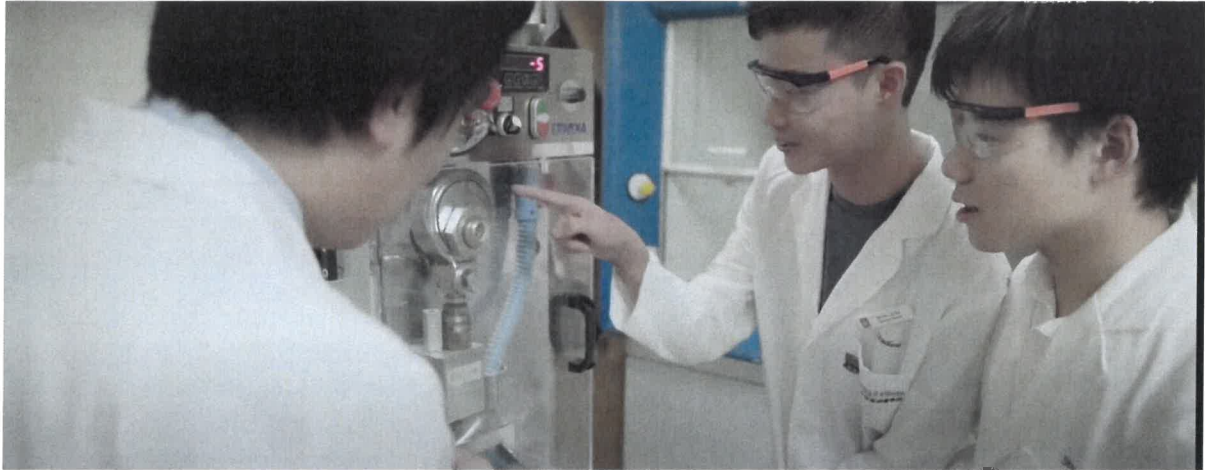
I am very much grateful to your corporation for your recognition of my potential in conducting research and I shall not rest on my laurels and continue to pursue after my goals to become both an outstanding pharmaceutical researcher and an inspiring teacher. Thank you very much for your continued support and investment in my future.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ho' or 'Ho Wan', written in a cursive style.

Chan Ho Wan, Howard

HKU Bachelor of Pharmacy 2020 Graduate



A photo of myself (right) with Dr. George Leung (Associate Professor, left) and one of my classmates Mr. Jeff Tam (middle) discussing over the mechanisms of the tableting machine during shooting of HKU BPharm programme promotional video in August 2017.



A group photo of myself (third from the left) with my professors, lecturers and classmates at the final day of the school year on 18th May, 2020. The photo serves to commemorate our graduation from the BPharm programme.