

**Faculty Letter of Recommendation / Faculty Letter of Support / Faculty Waitlist
Appeal (Details Changed)**

Professor X
Harrison Department for Cancer Research
Franklin Center for Integrative Science
99 E. 57th Street
Cambridge, MA 60977

9-Apr-22

Re: Lilly Chen

Dear Sir or Madam:

I recently learned that Lilly Chen has been waitlisted at the Harvard. I am currently affiliated with Harvard, and it was while Lilly was observing in my lab that I recommended she apply here. My work at Harvard involves the Committee on Cancer Biology, the Committee on Genetics, Genomics and Systems Biology and the Committee on Molecular Metabolism and Nutrition. My interests encompass proteomics, epigenetics, protein modifications, cancer, metabolism and the Warburg effect. I have been working with post-translational modifications (PTMs), which represent a major vehicle to diversify a cellular proteome, the inventory of all protein species in an organism.

I met Lilly Chen through her work with my colleague Dr. Chang, the chief scientist at Moderna Technologies, which is where Lilly was interning over the summer of 2021. Lilly's work at Moderna focused on developing laboratory techniques to detect SARS-CoV2 that increase the sensitivity and specificity of the test. As a research intern, Lilly's responsibility included data recording and analysis, and even designing experiments. She showed strong scientific knowledge, laboratory skills and intellectual curiosity that bodes well for her future career as a scientist and student.

I was truly impressed with Lilly's dedication to learning so quickly and her eagerness to gain experience within a hands-on research environment with the latest resources and technology. She jumped in to study new technology concerning the rapid genetic sequencing of pathogen samples, especially SARS-CoV-2 RNA (COVID-19 virus). She mastered the computer software's detection of the hybridized microchip and gained valuable skills during the pipetting process as she learned to perform it multiple times and meticulously measure out the mixes. With the weight of our investigation heavily influenced by the pandemic, Lilly impressed me with her determination to acquire precision and patience skills. As she worked with us, I often forgot that she was a high school student because of her level of maturity and eagerness to understand these profound concepts. She has stated that she intends to continue to expand her research experience in college, and I am confident that she will excel in any and all medical/biological research endeavors she undertakes based on my own experience working with her when she observed in my lab.

I have a very positive impression of Lilly Chen, which has been reinforced by what I have learned about her as a student. As a member of the International Baccalaureate program at St. Joseph's High School Lilly has chosen a rigorous course load in school, and she has taken five advanced placement classes in which she excelled. She is not only a National Merit Finalist but her SAT scores were also strong, with an evidence based and writing score of 790, a math score of 770 and a composite score of 1560. She not only excels in the classroom and at school but she has worked hard to gain research experience with us as an intern at Moderna Technologies, Inc. where she learned to performed experiments, asked interesting and thoughtful questions about sequencing and hybridized SARS-CoV-2 on a DNA microarray or chip, and gained skills as she observed at my lab. She has also gained personal hands-on experience when she to worked as an Empath Health Teen Volunteer affiliated with Sunny Hospice and participated in various community projects, worked with patients at both the outpatient facility and the hospice after receiving training. In addition she has practiced developing skills and interested in medicine by shadowing doctors in dermatology, pulmonology and pediatrics for a total of 76 hours.

As a member of the Harvard community, who has enjoyed my own positive experiences at this school, I suggested that Lilly should consider applying here. She and I have often discussed the extensive academic and research opportunities that this institution offers to its students both in and out of the classroom.

Lilly Chen has stated to me that the Harvard is her number one choice, because it is at the forefront of biological science research, and that she will attend if accepted. She is excited that at the Harvard she can access the resources and opportunities to continue exploring and expanding her understand of genetics research. I truly believe that she will be a credit to the school, and I highly recommend her for admission.

Regards,

Professor X