



## STANFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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*Cell Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Society  
CTRMS Scientific Abstract Travel Award*

Dear: CTRMS Grant manager

As the mentor of Dr. Yuki Imaoka, it is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation in support of Dr. Yuki Imaoka's application for CTRMS Scientific Abstract Travel Award.

Dr. Imaoka is an academic surgeon who has greatly contributed to the healthcare of transplant patients. After graduation of Hiroshima University, Japan in 2010, and he received his residency training in Hiroshima University Hospital, Japan, and Hiroshima Prefectural Hospital, Japan. He completed the PhD of Hiroshima University Graduate School, Japan in 2021. He is a young investigator within the first 2 years of research in transplantation and cell transplant since starting his post-doctoral training by this application deadline.

His research projects focus on liver-resident natural killer cells and cell-based immunotherapy for transplantation. He submitted abstracts titled "**Identifying High TRAIL-Expressing Liver NK Cells from Deceased and Living Donors for Effective Immunotherapy**" and "**Preserving Liver Natural Killer Cell Activity: Developing Novel Culture Techniques for "Off-the-Shelf" Cell Immunotherapy**" as a presenting author in IPITA-IXA-CTRMS joint Congress 2023. His project aims to investigate the correlation between donor characteristics and anti-tumor cytotoxicity of liver-derived natural killer cells from deceased donors and develop the novel culture methods of human liver NK cells with a focus on PI3K/AKT/mTOR signaling. He has made in developing innovative techniques to isolate human liver NK cells, optimizing their culture conditions, and characterizing their phenotype and function.

Dr. Imaoka has conducted experiments the highlight the differences in the functions of liver NK cells from deceased donors as compared to peripheral blood NK cells.

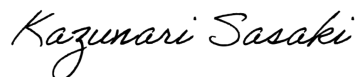
Additionally, he has made substantial strides in improving the survival, expansion, and function of liver NK cells by implementing novel culture methods for cell therapy. Based on his accomplishments thus far, he has formulated a comprehensive and inventive research proposal aimed at advancing the liver NK cell approach in immunotherapy. Dr. Imaoka's contributions in the field of cell therapy are highly promising, particularly for a young researcher. His work has significant implications for the development of new "off the shelf" immunotherapy therapies.

He has also outstanding potential to contribute to the area of cellular immunotherapy for cancer and his accomplishments have already been recognized by several awards. He received the Japan Medical Association Young Award 2023, the Young Investigator Researcher Award 2022 in the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, and the Japanese Society of Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Surgery Award 2018 for his recent research achievements.

I believe Dr. Imaoka is the best candidate who is compatible with the concept of CTRMS Scientific Abstract Travel Award.

In summary, I strongly recommend him to join in CTRMS Scientific Abstract Travel Award and he will take an excellent opportunity for research. Please feel free to contact me for any additional information.

Sincerely,



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