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**To: VAUZ Secretariat**  
Rämistrasse 62  
8001 Zurich, Switzerland

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### **LETTRE OF APPLICATION**

Dear VAUZ Board,

I hereby apply for the UZH Fund for Academic Career Development provided by the VAUZ Secretariat in support of the promotion of scientific conventions and congresses at the University of Zurich.

In June 2018, I was selected by the Yale Interdisciplinary Centre for Bioethics to attend its renowned Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Program. This is an annual educational program taking place in July, at Yale University in New Haven, USA (<https://bioethics.yale.edu/summer>). I attended this summer program as a general participant and an active contributor to the lectures, seminars and panel discussions. Since this program is directly related to my field of expertise, I have gained tremendous benefits in participating in it. Specifically, not only have I acquired in-depth insights in the various topics in bioethics, but I have also expanded my knowledge and strengthened my understanding in real-world ethical challenges medical practitioners face worldwide. In addition, as one of the most reputable educational programs in bioethics, the Yale experience provided me with an excellent platform for networking, leveraged on which future scientific collaborations have been successfully fostered during the program.

Given that my PhD project at the Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine (IBME) is unfunded until October 2018, I have been going through financial difficulties in the conduct of my research, including especially the participation of conferences and educational programs. It is my hope that the VAUZ would generously provide me with financial support, so that there would be less hurdles envisaged in the development of an academic career for a junior researcher like myself. I, therefore, kindly ask the VAUZ Board to consider my application in support of my participation in the Yale bioethics summer program.

Please find enclosed detailed information about the program and the budget. Other related documents and invoices are provided as well. Thank you very much for reviewing my application. I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Ning Wang

## Program Description

The Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics holds a world-renowned summer school annually - the Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Program. Now in its 13th year, the Program has attracted bioethics scholars and practitioners from all over the globe, and provided an excellent platform for knowledge exchange and networking among researchers and professionals across academic disciplines, geographic regions and cultural backgrounds. The program offers approximately 150-200 contact hours with a high faculty-to-participant ratio. There are four different types of activities carried out during the Summer Program:

- Morning sessions: intensive lectures with pre-reading tasks;
- Afternoon sessions: small-group seminars on selected bioethics topics;
- Weekly Friday sessions: methods and argumentation in bioethics; and
- Other activities: including a visit to the esteemed Hastings Center (public health and bioethics), a poster session at the end of the Program, and ad hoc networking events of high values for junior researchers.

Specifically, the benefits and relevance of my participation in the 2018 Program include:

- Top-quality lectures and seminars in bioethics;
- Transferable ECT credits and course certificate from Yale;
- Networking opportunities with scholars from Yale and its scientific collaborator, The Hastings Center, which I plan to visit as a guest scholar in 2019;
- Potential opportunity of teaching at the succeeding Yale Summer Programs (I have already been recommended to the Director of the Program by the current lecturers/former students of the Program, and been deemed as a candidate of high potential); and
- A distinguished honor and highlight in the CV.

## Budget

### 1. Total expenses

Item	Amount	Description
Participation fee	USD 1'175	Discounted fee
Flight tickets	USD 1'115	Round trip, economic
Accommodation	USD 1'000	Single room, 5 weeks
Food and living cost	USD 750	150/week, 5 weeks
<b>Total</b>	<b>USD 4'040</b>	

### 2. Coverage by the GRC Travel Grant

To financially fund my participation in the program, I was able secure a travel grant from the Graduate Campus (GRC) at the UZH in May 2018. However, according to the GRC grant policy, PhD students can only be financially supported at a fixed rate within its two funding periods respectively. In my case, I initially applied for CHF 2'500 for five weeks during 21 June – 26 July. However, as the 2<sup>nd</sup> funding period of the GRC starts as of 1 July, I was finally only granted four weeks that fall under July, and was not covered for the one week that falls under June (see Decision Letter 1&2 herewith). As a result, the travel grant I received from the GRC was CHF 2'200

(four weeks) instead of CHF 2'500 (five weeks). This amount barely covered my flight tickets, accommodation, food and living cost which amounted to CHF 2'865, while leaving CHF 665 uncovered. In addition, the tuition fee of USD 1'175 was uncovered at all by the GRC travel grant. Together, a total amount of CHF 1'840 was uncovered, which makes a big financial burden for me to bear as an unpaid PhD student.

### **3. Deficit to be sponsored by the VAUZ:**

In the absence of other available financial resources, I would like to request the VAUZ to kindly support me by covering the participation fee of the program (see the Acceptance Letter herewith), and the one week living cost (see GRC standard rate for travel grant to the USA), which amounts to USD 1'840 in total. Thank you very much for your attention.