



27 December 2024

To whom it may concern,

Subject: Support the Initiative for Advancing Cancer Research and Clinical Outcomes Through AI and Preventive Strategies

I am writing to emphasise the critical role of artificial intelligence (AI), disease screening, and prevention strategies in addressing pressing health challenges, particularly in the realm of cancer research and care in Australia. Cancer remains one of the most significant health issues in our nation and worldwide, both in terms of morbidity and mortality. We must leverage innovative tools and approaches to improve outcomes for individuals and communities.

### **The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Cancer Research**

AI has emerged as a transformative technology in healthcare, offering unprecedented opportunities to enhance disease detection, personalise treatment, and streamline research. In cancer, AI algorithms can analyse vast datasets to identify patterns that may be imperceptible to human researchers. This capability is crucial in understanding the molecular mechanisms of cancer, predicting patient responses to therapies, and discovering novel treatment targets. Moreover, AI-powered tools can optimise clinical workflows, enabling faster and more accurate diagnoses that ultimately improve patient outcomes.

### **Importance of Disease Screening and Prevention**

Early detection through robust screening programs is a cornerstone of effective cancer control. Screening not only improves survival rates but also reduces the financial and emotional burden on individuals and healthcare systems. However, many screening programs face challenges, including accessibility and accuracy. By integrating AI, we can enhance the precision of screening tools, reduce false positives and negatives, and ensure that screening programs reach underserved populations.

Preventive strategies are equally vital in reducing cancer incidence. From lifestyle interventions to vaccinations, prevention requires a proactive and multidisciplinary approach. AI can support these efforts by identifying at-risk populations, tailoring prevention messages, and evaluating the impact of interventions in real time.

### **Platform's Contribution to Research and Translation**

The platform proposed by Professor Avan stands at the intersection of AI, screening, and prevention, offering a comprehensive solution to accelerate cancer research and translate

findings into clinical practice. By fostering collaboration among researchers, clinicians, and policymakers, our platform will:

1. Facilitate data sharing and integration to support groundbreaking research.
2. Enhance the scalability of AI-driven solutions for disease screening and prevention.
3. Promote the translation of research into actionable strategies that improve clinical care.
4. Empower students and early-career researchers to contribute meaningfully to this vital field.

By prioritising these efforts, we can make significant strides in reducing cancer's impact on Australian communities. Our research work aligns with national health priorities and has the potential to serve as a model for other nations grappling with similar challenges.

In conclusion, I strongly advocate for the importance of AI-driven approaches, disease screening, and prevention strategies in addressing cancer. The platform proposed is uniquely positioned to catalyse advancements in this area, bridging the gap between research and clinical application.

I am confident that this initiative from Professor Amir Avan will lead to meaningful improvements in health outcomes and solidify world leadership in cancer research and care.

Yours Sincerely,



Prof. Alfred Lam AM  
MBBS, MD, PhD, FRCPath, FRCPA  
Foundation Chair Professor and Head of Pathology  
Griffith University

Mobile: 61-407 755 749  
E-mail: a.lam@griffith.edu.au