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Dear ESM Gertrud Meissner Award Committee,

It is with the greatest enthusiasm that I write to recommend **Dr. Véronique Suttels** for the 2025 Gertrud Meissner Award. I have had the privilege of mentoring Dr. Suttels throughout her PhD journey at the Lausanne University and in collaboration with EPFL (Laboratory for Intelligent Global Health, LiGHT), and I can affirm without reservation that she exemplifies the very ideals this award seeks to honor: early-career excellence, innovation, and meaningful impact in the field of tuberculosis.

Dr. Suttels is a uniquely talented physician-scientist with a deep commitment to improving diagnostics for tuberculosis in resource-limited settings. Her research is distinguished by both scientific rigor and real-world relevance. During her PhD, she led the Benin site of a multicenter study on point-of-care lung ultrasound for TB detection (clinicaltrials.gov ID NCT05423847), producing high-impact findings on the diagnostic value of expert- and AI-guided interpretation of lung ultrasound. Her PhD dissertation received the highest possible distinction—an exceptional achievement at the University of Lausanne.

Her leadership has already earned major recognition. In 2023, she was awarded the Livio Glauser Prize, and in 2024, she received the Best Oral Presentation Award at the European Society of Mycobacteriology Conference—both testament to the scientific quality and relevance of her work. Moreover, her success as scientific co-lead on the Horizon Europe EDCTP3-funded CAD LUS4TB project (total budget exceeding €9 million) speaks to her ability to lead ambitious, cross-continental collaborations with a strong focus on equity, implementation science, and AI-driven innovation.

Beyond her scientific achievements, Véronique is deeply committed to global health partnership principles, capacity building, and mentoring. She actively supports the development of local research ecosystems in West Africa through clinical training programs, master's student supervision, and her role as a technical advisor at Benin's national TB center.

In my career, I have rarely encountered someone who so seamlessly integrates clinical excellence, scientific innovation, and a heartfelt dedication to global health equity. Dr. Suttels is an outstanding early-career researcher whose work is already shifting paradigms in TB diagnostics.

I strongly and wholeheartedly support her nomination for the Gertrud Meissner Award, and I am confident that she will continue to make significant contributions to the field of TB diagnostics in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Noémie Boillat-Blanco