

4 June 2026

Dean's Award Selection Committee
Faculty of Engineering
Monash University

Re: Nomination of Dr Yuefeng Yin for the 2026 Dean's Award for Excellence in Research by a Research Fellow

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I write with great enthusiasm to nominate Dr Yuefeng Yin, Research Fellow in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, for the 2026 Dean's Award for Excellence in Research by a Research Fellow. Dr Yin is a computational materials scientist working at the frontier of quantum materials design for low-energy electronics — a field of growing national strategic importance as Australia builds its semiconductor and quantum industries. Having observed his work at close range over many years, I regard him as one of the most productive, creative, and genuinely impactful early-career researchers in the Faculty, and I nominate him with the highest confidence.

Dr Yin's scholarly output over the two-year eligibility window is exceptional: **14 research articles**, 6 in journals with impact factors above 10 — *Nature Communications*, *Matter*, *Advanced Materials*, *ACS Nano*, *Nano Letters* — a record that rivals many tenured academics. His research spans fundamental new discoveries in topological quantum materials and the design of next-generation semiconductor interfaces, providing the theoretical foundations that the Australian electronics community urgently needs. What truly sets Dr Yin apart, however, is his ability to convert these insights into real-world outcomes — a rare achievement for a computationally focused researcher. In 2025 he filed a U.S. patent (US63/848,509) based directly on his modelling results, and in 2026 **led and secured A\$650K in AEA Ignite funding** to advance that technology towards commercial fabrication. As a key participant in an ARC Linkage Project (A\$1.7M) led by Professor Michael Fuhrer, his total funding portfolio for this period exceeds **A\$2.6M** — an outstanding record for a Research Fellow at this career stage.

Dr Yin demonstrates equally strong leadership beyond his own research programme. Over the past two years he has co-supervised 7 PhD candidates; mentees have published first-author papers in *ACS Nano*, *Nano Letters*, and *Nature Communications*, and one graduate is now a joint postdoctoral researcher at the University of Cambridge and King's College London. He has also taken on teaching responsibilities at Central South University on behalf of Monash, and examined two departmental PhD candidates. At the institutional level, he led the liaison effort that produced a formal MoU between Monash University and Jiangxi Copper (Fortune 500) in August 2024, and played a pivotal role in securing Quantum Australia's endorsement of our semiconductor technology for the AEA programme — contributions that meaningfully extend the Department's national standing and industry partnerships.

In summary, Dr Yin exemplifies precisely what this Award is designed to recognise: rigorous, internationally peer-reviewed scholarship paired with entrepreneurial ambition, research translation, and genuine people leadership — all within just two years as a Research Fellow. The Department of Materials Science and Engineering is proud to put forward his nomination, and I endorse it without reservation.

Yours sincerely,

[HoD Name]

Head of Department
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
Monash University