## **NYCU Student Mariia Leontieva Awarded OPTICA Women Scholars Grant**

In a remarkable achievement that underscores the talent and potential of students at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University (NYCU) in Taiwan, Ms. Mariia Leontieva has been honored with the OPTICA Women Scholars Award. As the only recipient from Taiwan this year, her selection highlights her exceptional academic prowess and her promising future in the field of optics and photonics.

Established in 2002, the OPTICA Foundation is dedicated to supporting the society's student and early career communities. Each year, 20 OPTICA Women Scholars are chosen based on merit and need, providing them not only with financial support but also access to a global network of mentors and supporting companies. OPTICA is respectfully recognized by the Optical Society of America (OSA).

Ms. Leontieva, an undergraduate student double majoring in Electrical Engineering and Optoelectronics at NYCU, has demonstrated a keen interest and aptitude in optics and photonics. Her academic record, complemented by her involvement in research and coursework, showcases her potential to be a leader and innovator in the industry. In addition to the prestigious award, Ms. Leontieva will receive a grant to support her academic expenses, further enabling her to pursue her educational, research, and career goals in optics and photonics. Her selection was based on a rigorous application process that included a personal statement, a detailed budget, academic transcripts, which attested to her interest in optics and her merits for receiving this scholarship.

The significance of this award extends beyond financial support, as it connects Ms. Leontieva with a vibrant global association dedicated to advancing optics and photonics worldwide. The OPTICA Foundation, through its awards and honors programs, continues to cultivate the next generation of leaders in the field.

The NYCU community celebrates Ms. Leontieva's achievement and looks forward to her future contributions to the field of optics and photonics. Her success serves as an inspiration to fellow students, and a great honor of NYCU.

(Photo on the right is taken from OPTICA webpage: <a href="https://www.optica.org/foundation/opportunities/scho">https://www.optica.org/foundation/opportunities/scho</a> larships/optica women scholars/)



Article by Haydn Chen of NYCU