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TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Dr. Padma Srivastava for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards (Medical Sciences – Clinical Research).

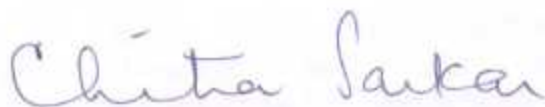
I know of her work in Stroke and the zeal with which she worked to establish the low cost acute stroke care pathways across India. Both Telestroke model of stroke care and the deployment of emergency physicians to manage stroke in district hospitals across India are due to her efforts. What is exemplary is that her research is always tailored towards making a visible and tangible difference to clinical care in her speciality of Neurology. This is evident by her publications on stroke care pathways in India, thrombolysis in stroke, Telestroke models, low cost stroke rehabilitation techniques, stem cell therapy in stroke etc.

She pioneered the work on “hyperacute thrombolysis program in acute ischemic stroke” in India and authored the first publication from India on the experience. She redefined the relevance of investigations such as PT, aPTT, platelet count prior to thrombolysis (which further delayed and increased costs of treatment in the developing countries) and due to this work, it is no longer mandatory to perform these tests if patients could be identified with appropriate clinical and radiological criteria. She is the National Co-ordinator for designing the National guidelines for thrombolysis in stroke, and has been on board for the National Commission on Non-communicable Diseases, Diabetes, and Stroke in designing the National Stroke Registry, and in designing programs for primary, secondary and tertiary care and prevention of stroke in the country. She has authored the National guidelines for Stroke Management and the Telestroke Guidelines for Government of India. She was the past president of the Indian Stroke Association and launched the Stroke Summer School for young physicians and neurologists who wish to develop stroke care in their respective regions. As Nodal officer she has been instrumental in launching acute stroke care pathways across India in all states at secondary level free of cost and accessible to all, irrespective of socio-economic and geographic barriers across the country, using the telestroke facilities and empowering the physicians at the grass root level of health care delivery.

She has done pioneering work in the field of stem cells in Stroke. Her work figures prominently in the international network on research in stem cells in Stroke and has to her credit nearly 10 publications on clinical research on stem cells. She has a total of 345 publications in peer reviewed journals with 7108 citations; I10 index of 144 and H index of 58. She played a key role in successfully bridging gaps in stroke care delivery systems in India through innovative low cost measures in establishing the acute stroke pathways across the country, the Stroke Unit launch, and Stroke Rehabilitation modules.

She has several on-going projects on low cost high yield rehabilitative techniques for disability after stroke. In collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, , she has developed a robotic arm; pioneered the inclusion of low cost non-invasive brain stimulation techniques, effect of Dual-Task Exercise in conjunction with Fluoxetine & Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) on postural stability and gait in stroke patients, elucidating the science of yoga as a therapeutic intervention in post stroke recovery and elucidating the pathobiology of classical ayurvedic interventions in post stroke recovery using Magnetic Resonance and Other techniques based structural, functional and chemical biomarkers.

She is exceptionally active in bringing science to the society, and has been recognized by the DST Award for Science Communication. She has also been elected Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences, and also been honored by the award of Padma Shri.



(Dr. Chitra Sarkar)