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To Whom It May Concern

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Chandrasekhar Bal for over three decades. After completing his MD in Biophysics at AIIMS in 1988, he pursued further specialization in Nuclear Medicine with a Diploma in Radiation Medicine (DRM) from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay and further qualifying as a Diplomate of the National Board in Nuclear Medicine in 1990. He then joined the faculty of Nuclear Medicine at AIIMS in 1991.

Dr. Bal is a clinician scientist par excellence. Over the years, he has played a pivotal role in transforming the Nuclear Medicine department at AIIMS into a vibrant diagnostic and therapeutic hub with a strong emphasis on research and innovation, extending beyond conventional imaging services. He has more than 500 publications with over 12,000 citations and h-index of 56.

He has introduced innovative interventions using a range of radioactive molecules to treat various clinical conditions, improving patient care while remaining cost-conscious. His research work is primarily focused on thyroid cancer and neuroendocrine tumors. His research in the last two decades has been instrumental in formulating management guidelines for thyroid cancer, with multiple randomized controlled trials guiding dosage of radio-active Iodine and surgical planning. The extensive longitudinal database established by Dr. Bal has significantly contributed to enhancing the care of thyroid cancer and is cited by several international management guidelines.

In the management of neuroendocrine tumors, Dr. Bal's impact has been profound, with his work on NET recognized by SNMMI, USA, as a featured article on the cover page of the "JNM" Feb 2023 issue. His contributions were further acknowledged with the Dr. Henry Wagner Jr. award as the International Best Researcher in SNMMI Annual meetings in the years 2021 and 2022.

Dr. Bal is a pioneer in the field of theranostics for which he is recognized nationally and internationally. Theranostics is a combination of therapeutics and diagnostics. It uses one radioactive drug to identify or diagnose the ailment and another to deliver therapy to treat the main tumour or any metastatic tumors. This results in sparing surrounding healthy tissues, a notable advantages over external beam radiotherapy where excessive toxicity to healthy tissue is a limiting factor. Internal radiation using radiopharmaceuticals can utilise beta-radiation or modern alpha-radiation, and even tandem therapies employing both beta and alpha radiopharmaceuticals. With this therapy, Dr. Bal has shown positive results among patients suffering from castration-resistant prostate cancer that continues to grow even when the testosterone levels are at or below the castrate level, radioiodine-refractory thyroid cancer, neuroendocrine tumours, triple-negative breast cancer and medullary thyroid cancer. This treatment has resulted in increased longevity of cancer patients by at least two years, besides improving the quality of life of patients.

Dr. Bal has been elected as a Fellow of all three Science Academies of (viz., namely the Indian Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Sciences, and Indian National Science Academy), in addition to being a Fellow of the National Academy of Medical Sciences. He has received numerous awards and orations and is recognized as an expert in several missions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Dr. Bal has served as the past-President of the Indian Thyroid Society and the Association of Nuclear Medicine Physicians of India. Currently, Dr Bal is serving as the Editor-in-Chief of Indian Journal of Nuclear Medicine, Official Journal of the Society.

Devoting his professional life to research and academics at AIIMS, Dr. Bal has served patients with his clinical and research acumen. I strongly recommend him for the Sun Pharma Research Award 2024.

Sincerely

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