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Subject: Citation (summary) of the Work

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am delighted to nominate my younger colleague Prof. Debabrata Maiti for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards under “Pharmaceutical Sciences”. Here is citation (summary) of one of the work by Prof. Maiti.

An Alkyne Linchpin Strategy for Drug: Pharmacophore Conjugation: Experimental and Computational Realization of a *meta*-selective Inverse Sonogashira Coupling (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2020**, *142*, 3762)

Over the last few decades, the landscape of molecular synthesis has gained major impulse by the introduction of late-stage functionalization (LSF) methodologies. Interestingly, C–H functionalization approaches, in particular, set the stage for new retrosynthetic disconnections, while leading to improvements in resource economy. A variety of ground-breaking techniques have been successfully implemented to the C–H diversification of pharmaceuticals, and these key developments have enabled medicinal chemists to integrate LSF strategies in their drug discovery programmes. Undoubtedly, this work is one of the best that is available. Not only because of its medicinal importance, from an academic point of view also this work stands quite unique due to its potential to attain excellent *meta*-selectivity irrespective of the electronic and steric environment of the arenes. A series of marketed drugs were *meta*-alkynylated selectively. This improvisation opens up a possibility for increased efficiency in the drug discovery process. On the other hand, this work is well crafted with proper mechanistic as well as computational study which further amplifies the utility of the protocol.

Prof. Maiti has already published over 190 manuscripts with 9630 citations and h-index of 56. I wish him all the success. I sincerely hope you will find Prof. Maiti suitable for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards under “Pharmaceutical Sciences”.

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