



August 21st, 2023

Dear Review Committee:

This letter is written in support of the research work submitted by Debasish Kumar Dey for the SUN PHARMA Science foundation award.

Dr. Dey is currently a full-time post-doctoral fellow with 100% effort (12-person months) committed to research and his academic home is in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Section of Gynecologic Oncology University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma USA.

I know him since January 2022 when he had interviewed for the current position. As per the best of my knowledge, Dr. Dey has completed his earlier education from India and PhD from south Korea.

Dr. Dey is a highly motivated, creative individual who works well independently as well as in teams. Working with a close-knit team of researchers from different disciplines and cultures has increased his confidence in communicating his research to those outside the field, and improved his intercultural skills. He has had the privilege of mentoring and training gynecologic oncology fellows, technicians and undergraduate students with limited prior research experience to perform experiments and complete their own research projects. He has learnt how to problem solve, build relationships, and negotiate practical solutions.

His research goal is to continue my research interest towards investigating the crucial role of NF- κ B/Cyclin D1 axis in chemoresistance. I hope he will successfully identify an effective and alternative therapeutic strategy to overcome the problem associated with cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitor (CDKi) resistance by targeting NF- κ B/Cyclin D1 axis in clinical settings. He has a plan to establish an independent research group to investigate the critical roles of Cyclin D1 involved in the promotion of drug resistance against CDKi. The SUN PHARMA Science foundation award is a great opportunity for him to acquire a depth knowledge on gene mutations by dissecting large gene sequences and will assist his understanding on the consequences of translational biology with the help of high throughput proteomic data analysis. Under my mentorship he has expanded his skills and knowledge in field of pharmacology and oncology to identify the consequences of gene mutations in gynecological cancer and he is now interested to study its response towards drug sensitivity. These skillsets will be very valuable for him to understand the various expects behind the failure of clinical trials, and will help him to identify a better therapeutic option. At OU Stephenson Cancer Center, USA, he understood and learn translational medical science in the field of gynecological cancer from clinical prospective under my mentorship.

In summary, Dr. Dey has developed an independent research program. He has shown outstanding research and leadership skills that will assure his success in an independent research career. This opportunity might provide him advance his independent career.

I wish him a best of luck for his career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Vishal Chandra", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vishal Chandra Assistant Professor

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

College of Medicine, Stephenson Cancer Center (SCC) Adjunct Assistant Professor at Department of Pathology University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

975 NE 10th St Oklahoma City 73104 Oklahoma, USA

(405) 271-8001 x 54314

Vishal-chandra@ouhsc.edu