



अभय करंदीकर  
निदेशक

Abhay Karandikar  
Director

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To,

The Peer Review Committee,  
Office of Sun Pharma Science Foundation,  
Hansalaya Building, 15-Barakhamba Road,  
Connaught Place, New Delhi

**Ref:** Justification for sponsoring the nomination of Dr. Bushra Ateeq for the “Sun Pharma Research Awards 2021 for Medical Sciences-Basic Research”.

Dr. Ateeq's research program at IIT Kanpur is internationally recognized by the peers as evident by her outstanding impactful publications, impressive citations and international collaborations. She has several break-through discoveries to her credit, which primarily bridged the gap between bench and the bed-side in India. First comprehensive molecular subtyping of Indian prostate cancer patients spearheaded by her has a huge potential for diagnostics, prognostics and translational impact (*Prostate*, 2015). For her work published in *Clinical Cancer Research*, 2019, Dr. Anders Bjartell, a well-known Medical Oncologist from Lund University, Sweden highlights the novelty and importance of her study, and recommends further exploration in the clinical trials, which itself is a testimony about the importance of her research. Her most recent groundbreaking discovery changed the prototype about androgen derivation therapy used as first-line of treatment for prostate cancer patients. She showed that anti-androgen drugs are actually detrimental to patients' health leading to much more aggressive neuroendocrine prostate cancer (*Nature Communications*, 2020). This discovery is extremely significant to reconsider androgen derivation therapy and strategize the treatment plan for these patients accordingly. In a recent impactful study, she discovered the underlying mechanisms for a highly aggressive prostate cancer subtype with elevated levels of DLX1, prevalent in ~60% of the patients, and shown the efficacy of BET inhibitors for its clinical management (*Nature Communications*, 2021; *Seminar in Cancer Biology*, 2021). Conclusively, her research has a huge diagnostic and translational potential, and provides foundation for tailored therapies for advanced stage prostate cancer patients. Dr. Ateeq has illustrious reputation among her peers because of her outstanding contributions in the cancer field and the impact it carries on the wellbeing of patients.

Dr. Ateeq established herself as an outstanding leader in the cancer field, and considering her seminal contributions, she is the most deserving candidate for the prestigious Sun Pharma Research Awards 2021.

Nominator

  
(Abhay Karandikar)