



Chandrima Shaha, Ph.D, FTWAS, FNA, FASc, FNASc
JC Bose Chair Distinguished Professor

Subject: Nomination for Sun Pharma Award for Basic Medical Research

Dated: August 7, 2023

To
The Chairperson
The Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards Selection Committee

Dear Chairperson,

This is my great pleasure to nominate Dr. Dipyaman Ganguly, from CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata, for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Award in Medical Sciences-Basic Research. I know him since he started his independent research career in India back in 2013. In recent years I had the opportunity of experiencing his leadership skills, domain knowledge and indomitable spirit of inquiry.

Dr. Dipyaman Ganguly did his MBBS from Medical College, Kolkata, India, a PhD in Biotechnology from Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, India and a PhD in Immunology from UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, USA. After his postdoctoral research at Columbia University, New York City, Dr. Ganguly started his independent laboratory in 2013.

His major research interests are deciphering dendritic cell biology, especially the plasmacytoid dendritic cells, in autoreactive inflammation as well as targeting them for therapy and exploring the role of mechanical cues in immune cells. His laboratory was the first to demonstrate a crucial role of plasmacytoid dendritic cells in adipose tissue inflammation in obesity (*Diabetes*, 2016; *Mol Metab*, 2018; *Trends Immunol*, 2018; *Obesity*, 2023). His research also demonstrated a number of novel regulators for human plasmacytoid dendritic cells (*J Immunol (Cutting Edge)*, 2019; *Front Immunol*, 2019) and the involvement of Piezo1 mechanosensor in human immunocellular functions (*J Immunol (Cutting Edge)*, 2018; *Crit Rev Immunol*, 2019). During the COVID-19 pandemic, he took up leadership in challenging CSIR programs, led a randomized control trial on convalescent plasma therapy as well as gleaned several immunopathogenic insights for severe COVID-19 disease (*J Infect Dis*, 2021; *Front Immunol*, 2021; *Nat Commun*, 2022; *JAMA Network Open*, 2022; *mBio*, 2023; *Gut Pathog*, 2023).

Dr. Ganguly published more than 50 internationally acclaimed publications with more than 4900 citations and has been granted 3 US patents. He is a recipient of NASI-Scopus Young Scientist Award, Swarnajayanti Fellowship from Dept. of Science and Technology, CDRI Award, Merck Young Scientist Award and National Bioscience Award from Dept. of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. He has also been a member of several national advisory committees, viz. COVID Suraksha Mission Apex Committee, CSIR Core Strategy Group, ICMR Gene Therapy Advisory and Evaluation Committee as well as different technical advisory committees of DBT and DST. His laboratory has been very well funded including three

Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, 4, Raja SC Mullick Road, Jadavpore, Kolkata 700032
email: cshaha04@gmail.com
chandrima.shaha@csiriicb.res.in
Phone: 9958420001



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international collaborative grants with research groups from France, Australia and Italy.

One of his recent efforts comprised of gathering a team of scientists and clinicians from 26 national institutes of eminence, including 14 clinical institutions (viz. SGPGI, PGIMER, AIIMS, JIPMER, CMC Vellore etc.) and 12 basic research institutions (viz. NIL, THSTI, NCCS, CSIR-IGIB, CSIR-CDRI, Bose Inst etc.) to form a National Alliance of Translational Research in Autoimmune Diseases (NATRAD). The NATRAD alliance started its endeavor by collating and publishing a document on current trends of research in this domain and the extent of the public health problem. This was followed by a research grant proposal, him being the project coordinator, with a spirit of a trans-institutional alliance. The proposal is currently under consideration by the Apex Committee of the Department of Biotechnology.

I believe his significant scientific accomplishments in basic disease biology research as a physician-scientist, his keen understanding of and motivation for translational efforts in the domain of disease biology and his documented acumen for leadership roles, Dr. Ganguly is a very suitable candidate for the Award.

Sincerely

Chandrima Shaha