

Signed statement from the applicant to the effect that the research work under reference has not been given any award in the past.

The current research work in the area of “Epithelial to Mesenchymal Transition (EMT)” has not been submitted for any awards.

The research performed by the nominee in the areas of “Cancer Stem Cells” and “Tumor Heterogeneity” have earlier been awarded as follows –

[I] Earlier Awards received by the Nominee –

- (i) National Women Bioscience Award 2008 (Young Category) received from the Department of Biotechnology
- (ii) ICMR - Dr. Prem Nath Wahi Award 2007
- (iii) TCS (The Cytometry Society) Award
- (iv) Shri Ramniklal J. Kinarivala Cancer Research Award, Gujarat Cancer Society

[II] The applicant should also indicate the extent of the contribution of others associated with the research and he/she should clearly identify his/her achievements (not to exceed 500 words)

The ‘discovery’ of cancer stem cells was achieved by me and arose from a pre-existing awareness of the concepts of regenerative potential of stem cells from my previous training and experience. While working with clinical samples of ovarian tumors, the aggression of tumor cells was visible in cultures and led me to speculate whether these could be stem cells in an aberrant setting. While working along these lines, I realized the phenotypic plasticity that seemed to be an intrinsic capability of normal ovarian surface epithelia and this was the genesis of the studies undertaken on “Epithelial to mesenchymal Transition (EMT)”.

In all the published research reports, the concept thus was visualized by and developed by me. Experimentation was also performed under my supervision using resources and grants provide to me by my institute (National Centre for Cell Science) or through extra-mural grants. With the help of other contributing colleagues, I have analysed the data and contributed to the manuscript and patent drafting and revisions. All final drafts are approved and submitted by me and I hold the sole responsibility of the validity of the statements.

PhD Scholars who have conducted the research have received their doctorate degree with me as the sole guide. Our studies have also been supported by extra-mural funding and discussions and opportunities arising through collaborations. Project staff has benefitted from the training imparted during the research and have also been recognized as co-authors on the reports that they have contributed through their research efforts.

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