

To,  
Selection Committee,  
Sun Pharma Science Scholars Fellowships

I am writing my strongest possible nomination letter for Mr. Muhammad Sajeer P for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Fellowships-2024 under biomedical category.

I am a Professor at the Center for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore where Muhammad Sajeer is pursuing his PhD in my group. His research focus is the development of solid-state nanopore technology-based protein sequencing for early detection of diseases and monitoring the disease progression closely. Development of this low cost, portable and easy to use technology is expected to make a drastic change in the current healthcare system and make healthcare more accessible worldwide. As part of his PhD, he demonstrated how electric field sensing could enhance nanopore sequencing technology, bringing us closer to realizing single molecular protein sequencing.

Despite losing nearly a year to COVID-related disruptions, he has achieved remarkable success in the short time since joining the group. He has already published five papers from his PhD work including research articles, reviews, protocols, and science and society pieces, and is preparing to submit several more. Additionally, he has been awarded both the Commonwealth Split-site Fellowship and the Swiss Excellence Fellowship.

He has been the most energetic, creative and curiosity driven student I have had in my group so far. I am a member of my department's academic monitoring committee and through that position I have had the opportunity to closely follow the performance of a reasonably large number (around 150) graduate students so far. I would rate Sajeer in the top 3 of this group. His exciting and curiosity driven research with an intention to make a positive social impact is highly appreciable. His interest also spans humanities and he has championed several outreach activities in Physics and nanobiotechnology education. This diverse ranges of interests and skills make him an ideal interdisciplinary researcher which is very much required to solve the real-world problems. I think, this aspect makes him stand out among his peers

Sajeer comes from an underprivileged and under-represented group at academic institutes in India. The very fact that he was able to make it to a competitive and selective PhD program such as ours is a strong testament to his all-round abilities. An opportunity to receive the Sun Pharma Award can play a transformative role in

**MANOJ VARMA**  
Professor

T +91 80 2293 3159 / 3325  
E mvarma@iisc.ac.in  
<http://www.cense.iisc.ac.in/manoj-varma>



his growth as a scientist and as an individual. This would also be an opportunity for him to form industry and academic networks enabling future collaborative research. I strongly recommend Sajeer for this opportunity and I hope that the selection committee comes to this conclusion too. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further enquiries regarding his application.

Sincerely,

Manoj Varma.