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Indian Institute of Technology

I.I.T. Powai, Mumbai - 400 076 India General Secretary, NASI (National Academy of

Sciences India)

08 August 2023

Sun Pharma Science Foundation, 8C, 8th Floor, Hansalaya Building, 15-Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi -110001, INDIA

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for: Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Award

With this letter, I strongly recommended my PhD student Ms. Preethi A, an enthusiastic and dedicated student to support her participation in Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Awards-2023. Ms. Preethi A started her PhD program under my supervision in 2017 at the Dept. of Chemical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay.

Over the years, Ms. Preethi has shown curiosity in acquiring knowledge, experimenting various methodologies and passion for exploring new research fields has been evident throughout her academic career. Her research work "Biodegradable, bioresorbable and bacteriostatic nanofibrous mesh for pelvic organ prolapse" is the brainchild of Ms. Preethi A. The idea for the development of soft, resorbable nanofibrous mesh was sparked to her after she came across the USFDA ban on transvaginal mesh products on April, 2019. My student took my guidance in each and every step and put a lot of manhours into this project singlehandedly from ideation, experimental design and execution over the past 4 years and she also has proven her mettle in obtaining grants like IDEAS, IITBombay in her individual capacity and BIRAC-PACE-AIR grant and WRCB grant in collaboration with me. On 6th July, 2023, this project was featured under women's health in G-20 RIIG Summit and Research Minister's meeting held at VMCC, IIT Bombay. Her go getter attitude and commitment to research made it all possible.

Apart from academics, Ms. Preethi A has been an active participant in various departmental activities and extracurricular activities and has taken key leadership role in organizing Departmental conference over the years and was also a PhD representative and have brought key reforms in solving visible and hidden problems faced by PhD students.

Ms. Preethi A utilizes all the opportunities at her disposal to hone her skills. I believe that she deserves the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Awards-2023 under biomedical category.

Sincerely,

r. Jayesh Bellare, PhD Supervisor, Institute Chair

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