



To,
Sun Pharma Science Foundation
8C, Hansalaya Building, 15, Barakhamba Rd,
Connaught Place, New Delhi, Delhi 110001

Subject: Justification Letter for the Nomination of Dr. Amit Nain for “Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards”

Dear Committee members,

As a faculty member of the Department of Materials Engineering at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (Karnataka, India), I serve as the host for Dr. Amit Nain during his DST-INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship (2022-2027). **I am writing to support his candidature for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards-2023, offered by your prestigious foundation.**

Amit joined our department after completing his Ph.D. in “Antimicrobial Nanomaterials” from National Taiwan University (Taipei, Taiwan). He received this highly competitive and selective fellowship from the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Indian government, which is essentially a contractual faculty fellowship of up to 5 years that enables him to run a research team and apply for research proposals. Given his interest in biomaterials, he works with our team to use the facilities available in our laboratory. He proposed to work on piezoelectric biomaterials as part of the fellowship application. But since starting this fellowship, he is additionally started work on projects related to 3D/4D bioprinting of hydrogels and light-actuated shape-memory polymers, among others for tissue engineering application.

Not only is he very knowledgeable about the biomedical field, I have found Amit to be extremely motivated in my interactions with him over the last year or so. Aside from working on his research projects, he has drafted and submitted several proposals as the principal investigator to funding agencies (i.e., DST, ICMR, INAE, etc.) for four domestic proposals, one international bilateral project (INDO-TAIWAN), and a few other short-term research grants. On the research front, he has been granted one provisional patent of the hydrogel formulations and in the process of filing for another Indian patent for one of the shape-morphing scaffold while he finalizes the manuscripts for submission. In addition, he has submitted two book chapters and two review articles while training his group members and working with some of the senior members of my group. He has been quite successful in working together with many members of my group. He gets along well with them.

As you will see from his CV, Amit has a strong track record of accomplishments in the form of many published papers in reputed journals and a long list of awards that he received as a graduate student and, subsequently, postdoctoral fellowship offers. Amit is a young (27 years old), dynamic, knowledgeable, and eager researcher who has a promising career ahead of him as a fully independent investigator. I believe such awards can give him platform and financial support to further hone his skills and expand his horizons to make him better prepared for the future. **I have no hesitation nominating Amit for “Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards -2023”.**

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

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