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INDIAN COUNCIL OF
MEDICAL RESEARCH NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH
IN REPRODUCTIVE AND CHILD HEALTH



आई सी एम आर - राष्ट्रीय प्रजनन एवं
बाल स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान संस्थान, मुंबई
स्वास्थ्य अनुसंधान विभाग, स्वास्थ्य और परिवार
कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार

ICMR - National Institute for Research in
Reproductive and Child Health, Mumbai

Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health
and Family Welfare, Government of India

Justification Letter

I am pleased to nominate Ms. Yugandhara Jirwankar for the Sun Pharma Research Scholar Award 2023. Yugandhara joined as a Ph.D. student under my supervision immediately after completing her Post-graduation in Biotechnology from North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon in 2017. While in the final year of the M.Sc., she cleared the DBT-JRF BET (Department of Biotechnology Junior Research Fellowship, Biotechnology Eligibility Test) and GATE Biotechnology examinations and also secured first rank in the university examinations for which she was awarded a gold medal. She availed a DBT-JRF fellowship for the five-year period for her Ph.D. and is now working as Project Associate-I with me.

Yugandhara comes across as a hardworking and intelligent fellow. She takes interest in the work assigned to her and is interested in attaining more knowledge and has always been very inquisitive about recent developments in the area and had the urge to know more about the subject. In the laboratory her practical skills are commendable and she picks up new techniques promptly. As a part of her Ph.D. dissertation she worked on the project entitled "Identification and Characterization of Sertoli and Leydig cell homing Peptides". Being a senior student in my laboratory she has successfully performed a maximum of work by herself and successfully completed the project. She possesses exceptional skills in designing experiments and troubleshooting. Yugandhara also worked with me and wrote the project for funding and helped me to secure funding for the project from DHR. While writing her thesis she is also working with other people in the lab to establish the use of identified Sertoli and Leydig cell homing peptides to deliver the drugs for the treatment of Male infertility and Male contraceptive delivery. Apart from her own PhD thesis she has mentored her junior PhD students, trainee and collaborative PhD students and helped them to learn the techniques. Yugandhara has published a part of her PhD work in a reputed Journal of Drug Targeting and the remaining of work is ready to submit as a paper. She also has authored a few publications as co-author for her contribution to collaborative projects.

I strongly recommend Ms. Yugandhara Jirwankar for the Sun Pharma Research Scholar Awards 2023 and believe her contribution to the field of peptides for drug delivery makes her the best candidate to receive the award. I hope you will consider my nomination of Ms. Yugandhara Jirwankar for the Sun Pharma Research Scholar Award.

Thanking you.



Dr. Vikas Dighe

Scientist F and Head

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