राष्ट्रीय प्रतिरक्षाविज्ञान संस्थान
जैव प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का स्वायत्त अनुसंधान संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF IMMUNOLOGY
An Autonomous Research Institute of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology
Government of India

To
The Selection Committee,
Sun Pharma Research Award 2021.

Sub: Letter of Nomination for Dr Vinay Kumar Nandicoori, Director, CSIR-CCMB

I take great pleasure to nominate Dr Vinay Kumar Nandicoori from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology for the Sun Pharma Research Award. Vinay is an outstanding scientist who has established himself as a leader in the field of Mycobacterial Biology in less than two decades. I have known him for more than 30 years, with our early association as students at IIT-Bombay. Vinay initiated his research career understanding DNA repair and protein synthesis in *Escherichia coli* with Prof. Umesh Varshney at Bangalore's Indian Institute of Science (IISc). His Ph.D. work was also scientifically very productive, and he published a total of nine papers, with several of them in ***Nucleic Acids Res.*** and ***J. Biol. Chem.*** Moreover, Vinay's thesis was awarded by "***The Sreenivasaya Best Thesis Award of IISc, Bangalore***". He continued with his excellent performance at the Texas A & M University and the University of Virginia for his post--doctoral research. In July 2004, he joined the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi (NII) as Staff Scientist IV to establish his independent research group.

Given his excellent background and dedication to science, it is no surprise that Vinay established a very vibrant and productive group of his own at NII, where he is carried out outstanding research in the area of signaling in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*). Vinay has contributed immensely to establishing novel concepts, technologies, and early lead molecules in defining serine/threonine kinase-mediated signaling networks in *Mtb*. Vinay's group has developed a novel oxazolidone derivative that inhibits GlmU. The addition of the derivative significantly decreases the bacillary load in the murine model of infection. His recent work has demonstrated a novel *Mtb* survival mechanism and strongly suggested host ATM and Sirt2 as possible targets for adjunct Host Directed Therapy. His laboratory has generated several reagents for gene replacement, protein-protein interaction, and

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