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Nomination for Sun Pharma Science Foundation-Clinical research Award 2021

I am writing this letter in support of Prof. Sameer Bakhshi and nominating him for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation – Clinical Research Award 2021, for his outstanding contribution to the field of *Supportive Care in Cancer*.

He has already published more than 440 peer-reviewed indexed articles with more than 5200 citations, H-index of 35 and I-10 index of 151. His work on cancer supportive care has resulted in establishment of non-toxic and affordable modes of treatment for end stage cancer patients, novel practice changing antiemetic regimens, and outpatient models for treatment of patients with fever and neutropenia.

Dr Bakhshi's pioneering work on the largest and first ever double blind randomized controlled trial of metronomic chemotherapy (an affordable palliative treatment for majority of patients) has shown its role in non bone sarcoma solid malignancies (JAMA Oncology- 2017, IF-32; Citations-44). His group has also recently shown that metronomic therapy is a cost effective alternative to pazopanib in advanced sarcomas (J Oncol Pharm Practice 2021). Thus, he has established affordable and practical models of effective care which are applicable in India for advanced palliative cancers while simultaneously advancing science at an international level.

Sameer has also focused on vomiting, one of the most dreaded side effects of chemotherapy. Sameer scientifically established role of ginger capsules as an effective antiemetic agent in high emetogenic chemotherapy through a randomized controlled trial (PBC-2011, Citations-172). His pioneering work on the use of the drug aprepitant in children receiving chemotherapy, through a double-blind placebocontrolled trial (Support Care Cancer-2015, Citations-42), is widely accepted as a practice changing article in antiemetic guidelines of cancer chemotherapy. Recently, repurposing of the drug olanzapine (commonly used in psychiatric illnesses) as an anti-emetic agent through a randomized controlled trial has been another of his pioneering clinical practice changing work in the field of anti-emetic use in cancer chemotherapy (J Clin Oncology 2020; IF-44.5).

Further, in cancer supportive care, Sameer has brought out effective models of care for treatment of febrile neutropenia on an outpatient basis. He has successfully done studies wherein antibiotics may be stopped earlier without affecting outcome in febrile neutropenia therapy saving patients from unnecessary toxicity. In view of his achievements and his special contribution to Cancer Supportive Care, I nominate him for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation-Clinical Research Award 2021.

(Prof. GK Rath)

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