

**Professor D Balasubramanian**  
Distinguished Scientist

**Date: 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

### **Justification letter**

**Re: Nomination of Dr Swathi Kaliki for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards 2021 – Medical Sciences - Clinical Research category**

I have known Dr Swathi Kaliki for the past 8.5 years as a colleague, and as the Director of Research of the Institute. She heads the section of eye cancers in the institute, diagnoses and treats all forms of eye cancers, particularly in children. Beyond being a surgeon, she practises what may be called ‘translational research’, wherein she uses the knowledge gained from basic research in the laboratory bench to attempt and treat patients on the bedside. She thus interacts and collaborates with basic scientists in the institute (geneticists, cell biologists), and has been trying out some of these with success in treating patients. This has allowed her to save the eye in many instances, rather than remove the eye itself (enucleation) wherever possible- a relief for the patient and the family. She has been involved with the treatment of patients with eye cancer, and has treated over 2000 patients (including new and follow-up cases) during the last several years with 50% being children with retinoblastoma. Given all this, I would not hesitate in calling her the best eye cancer doctor-scientist in India.

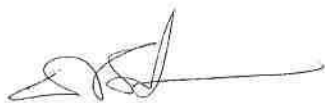
She has extensively published her research work on eye cancers in various national and international journals. Currently, she has 214 publications in peer-reviewed journals and 13 textbook chapters to her credit. She has 4627 citations of her research work with an impressive h-index of 40 and i-10 index of 80. In addition to her clinical and research activities, she has

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contributed significantly to the community by increasing awareness about retinoblastoma amongst general public. She has been organizing regular 'whitathon' marathons in the city, making citizens aware of eye cancers, methods to treat the safely, and to contribute financially and to volunteer in the hospital towards the winning over of this "emperor of eye maladies".

With her single-minded focus on how to treat ocular cancers, what new methods (clinical, technological and basic biological) can be tried, how to diagnose prospective cases even before they become apparent, and her ability to try and improve on new methods, plus her collaboration with scientists on translational approaches, there is no doubt that she will contribute in meaningful ways, and be a leader in the field of ocular cancers.

With the above information, I am happy to nominate Dr Swathi Kaliki for the award category "**Medical Sciences – Clinical Research**". Please feel free to reach out to me for any clarification.



**Prof D. Balasubramanian**

Distinguished Scientist & Director of Research Emeritus

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