

Statement of research achievements, if any, on which any award has already been received by the applicant. Please also upload brief citation(s) on the research work(s) for which the applicant has already received the award(s) (not to exceed 2000 words)

Sir / Madam,

I joined as Scientist D in ICMR-National Institute of Virology last year in Jan 2020. Before this I was working as Scientist-In-charge in Stanley Browne Laboratory of The Leprosy Mission Trust India. I have been engaged in leprosy research for the last 18 years. I was awarded my PhD (Biotechnology) on the thesis entitled “Genomic diversity in leprosy bacillus” on 11th Feb 2009 with ICMR fellowship under the supervision of Dr. VM Katoch, the then Secretary, DHR, MHFW, Govt of India & DG-ICMR. During that period, the research innovations into my account included identification and characterization of a panel of novel genomic markers for molecular typing of *Mycobacterium leprae*. **This was a long awaited requirement to know the possible source(s) / reservoir(s) of *M.leprae* infection and to trace the transmission of leprosy from unknown sources by using novel molecular methods of detection and genotyping**, this work was presented in National as well as International conferences, and several papers on above subjects were published and won awards. The study done by me identified the soil as a potent reservoir of viable *M.leprae* in endemic areas and involved developing novel protocols for the isolation of bacterial DNA from soil samples. **This was one of the most appreciated finding in the field of leprosy research, a well-cited publication in 2008** [Lavania M, Katoch K, Katoch VM, Gupta AK, Chauhan DS, Sharma R, Gandhi R, Chauhan V, Bansal G, Sachan P, Sachan S, Yadav VS, Jadhav R. Detection of viable *Mycobacterium leprae* in soil samples: insights into possible sources of transmission of leprosy. *Infect Genet Evol.* 2008 Sep;8(5):627-31]. **This was the first report of presence of viable *M.leprae* in environment. For this, I was awarded Young Scientist Award by Indian Association of Leprologists.**