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Ms. Dipasree Hajra, among my 25 graduate colleagues is among the top 1%. Dipasree is simply an amazing scientist with exemplary maturity, intellect, and independence. She joined my laboratory in the year of 2018 on August 01st. She was among the toppers of the Ph.D. Interview list of the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology, Indian Institute of Science. From the first day, she came across as a vibrant, disciplined, and sincere student. She has brilliant academic records. She was a gold medalist in both B.Sc (Bachelors, Presidency University, Kolkata) and M.Sc (Masters, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad), for securing the first position in both her department and in the University in the Faculty of Science. She even topped the Ph.D. coursework with a CGPA of 9.1. She ranked 3rd in the nationwide CSIR examination and was awarded the Prestigious Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (SPM) Fellowship in the year 2019. As a scientist, I vouch for Dipasree's outstanding intellectual capabilities and passion for academic exploration.

She is extremely well-articulated, a great team leader, and can function well in team activities. She has lent her hand in several collaborative works and provided newer directions to each one of them and those works are in communication. She has great experience working on an interdisciplinary collaborative project on the assessment of evaporative dynamics on bacteria wherein she is one of the lead contributors. Over the years, she has grown as a scientist right in front of my eyes. Alongside team efforts, she has immense mentoring skills. She has

mentored more than 18 dissertation students, and many of them have earned themselves positions in eminent institutes in India and abroad as Graduate research students.

Dipasree is extremely passionate about science and research and is keen to learn new skills and contribute her bit to the advancement of scientific research. She is a fast learner. She is good at executing instructions and learning techniques. She has brought in and standardized several new techniques to our laboratory ranging from flow cytometric analysis, nanostring gene profiling, metabolic profiling, protein immunoprecipitation, and cryo-EM structural studies. She is exceptional in handling and driving intensive research ideas with her brilliant reasoning and thinking capabilities. She has greatly led her Ph.D. work with her independent and innovative critical thinking and each of her thesis chapters has the potential to be published in prestigious journals. Her first thesis chapter was accepted in the **eLife** journal in November 2023, while her second chapter is currently under revision. In a couple of months, we will start communicating her ambitious third chapter. She has already authored several research articles, review articles, and book chapters in prestigious peer-reviewed journals. I have often been amazed by her insightful contributions during our personal meetings and brainstorming sessions in the lab meetings, which have greatly enriched our scientific endeavors. She approaches research problems with great enthusiasm and a tenacious spirit, constantly pushing boundaries and discovering new avenues for exploration. Dipasree is highly organized, and detail-oriented and possesses excellent problem-solving skills which enable her to lead complex projects efficiently. She is someone who receives criticism with positivity and perceives it as an opportunity for improvement. She is brilliant at her communication skills, effortlessly conveying complex ideas in a simple, clear, and concise manner. Her exceptional presentation skills have been demonstrated through numerous conference presentations, and workshops where she has effectively engaged diverse audiences. She is sound in in-depth critical and analytical thinking. What sets her apart from the rest is not only her technical expertise and her thinking, but her exceptional work ethic, perseverance, and hard work. She can serve as an asset to any laboratory.

Apart from her immense academic prowess, she possesses remarkable interpersonal skills and the ability to inspire and motivate fellow students, readily offering guidance and support to others. I have witnessed Dipasree passionately supervise and mentor junior team members, empowering them to reach their fullest potential. Her respectful and empathetic behavior fosters a positive work environment, encouraging open dialogue and promoting the free exchange of ideas.

Additionally, she fulfils the eligibility criterion for the award of being less than 30 years of age and she is awaiting her PhD. Degree.

Considering her in-depth qualities to do independent science, write grants, and think through the process, I highly recommend **Ms. Dipasree Hajra** for the **prestigious Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Fellowship**.

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