



Dr. K. Thangaraj, FNA, FASc, FNASc

J C Bose Fellow & Former Director, CDFD

To.
The Selection Committee,
Sun Pharma Research Award 2024.

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

I am pleased 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 not only established himself as a leader in Mycobacterial Biology in less than two decades but has also demonstrated exceptional leadership in this field. 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-directed therapy. His laboratory has generated several reagents for gene replacement, protein-protein interaction, and mycobacteria gene expression studies. These reagents have been widely used and acknowledged by mycobacterial researchers worldwide. He has published **80 papers in top journals** such as *EMBO J*, *Nature Communications*, *eLife* (4), *Plos Pathogens* (2), *J. Cell Science*, *Nucleic Acids Research*, *J. Immunology*, and **14 papers in J. Biol. Chem.** Needless to add that several national awards, including *National Bioscience Career Development Award* and *JC Bose fellowship*, have recognized his research output. He is a fellow of all the three science academies in India (*NASI, IASc, and INSA*) and an elected member of **Guha Research Conference**, India. He is increasingly interested in taking scientific achievements towards improving people's lives and has initiated several projects in translational sciences.

His excellent Scientific record and taking administrative responsibilities throughout his tenure at NII, led to his recent appointment as the Director, CSIR-CCMB. I am very sure that Vinay's broader scientific vision, along with his sensitive empathy towards community, will lead CSIR-CCMB to a future path of success and glory. I strongly feel that Vinay's positive energy, scientific accomplishments, and vision to achieve bigger things make him an ideal candidate for Sun Pharma Research Award 2024.

Sincerely,

[K. Thangaraj]

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