U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

Nomination Letter

September 2, 2021

Rajinder K. Jalali
Member Secretary
Sun Pharma Science Foundation

Dear Dr. Jalali,

I am herewith self-nominating for the prestigious Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards-Basic Sciences, for the year 2021.

I have worked in biomedical sciences, primarily focusing on various infectious diseases to understand the fundamental principles regulating host's immune functions. I have worked on various challenging projects based on influenza universal vaccines, antivirals, pathogenesis, surveillance, and diagnostics.

My research has developed new biotechnologies using different adjuvants (Defensins, CpG ODNs, GPI-CCL28, GPI-IL-12, GPI-B7-1, HPV-16 peptides, genomic DNA, and CCL27) and vaccine delivery vehicles (PLGA microparticles, nanoparticles, virus-like particles; VLPs, and microneedle patches; MNPs) for diseases such as HIV-1, malaria, influenza, cervical cancer, and triple negative breast cancer and participated in developing diagnostic kits for malaria and chikungunya infections. I have also studied the coexistence of Th1/Th2 and Th17/Treg imbalances in patients with post-traumatic sepsis and the T cell profiles of HIV-1 infected populations.

I have investigated an HIV sequential immunization strategy with a panel of Env-enriched VLPs from HIV-1 clades A—E to generate broadly neutralizing antibody responses. I have worked on various research to develop a universal influenza vaccine based on confirmation-stabilized tetrameric M2e nanoparticles, double-layered nanoparticles with HA stalk domains, and sequential immunization with various influenza HA. I have also participated in other influenza vaccine projects, including research into the use of two-layered nanoclusters, protein nanoparticles containing fusion proteins of flagellin with conserved influenza epitopes, and microneedle patch delivery of 4M2e-tFliC fusion protein.

At CDC Headquarter (Atlanta, Georgia, USA), our team has participated in influenza virus surveillance and assessment of influenza virus susceptibility to FDA-approved and investigational anti-viral agents.

Currently, in the Laboratory Preparedness and Response Branch (LPRB) at CDC, I am working as LPRB-BAA Program Coordinator. Under this program, CDC is interested in the development and evaluation of innovative laboratory methods, tools, and strategies for deployment to the Laboratory Response Network for detection and characterization of existing and novel pathogens that are associated with a biothreat event or could cause a novel emerging infectious disease outbreak and/or public health emergency. Here, I am responsible to organize, track and report on communications and documents

submitted to CDC LPRB from multiple external research project partners and collaborators. Additionally, I am in-charge to provide functional expertise in project coordination and expertise in laboratory data (microbiology, molecular biology, DNA/RNA sequencing).

I am the US Permanent resident and still holding Indian passport. I have attached my resume with this nomination letter, for your consideration.

I thank you for your consideration of my application, and please contact me if I can provide any further information.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

TEENA MOHAN, *PhD* | Scientist V
LPRB-BAA Program Coordinator
Laboratory of Preparedness and Response Branch (LPRB)
Division of Preparedness and Emerging Infections (DPEI)
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
1600 Clifton Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30329
Mobile: 404-861-9432 | Desk: 404-718-7860, 770-885-4323
Email: pii7@cdc.gov | lprbbaa@cdc.gov
Fax: 404-601-7402 | MS H 17-5