

Dr. Rakesh K. Mishra
Director

To whom it may concern

I am delighted to write the justification letter to **Dr. Narayana Nagesh** who is a nominee for the **Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Award** for the year 2021. I know Dr. Nagesh for nearly three decades, when he joined as a scientist at CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad, India. He has completed his doctorate in Chemistry from S. V. University, India and Post Doc at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona, USA. He has published several research articles in various internationally reputed, peer reviewed journals.

He has several national and international collaborations. He is interested in understanding the anticancer potential of several synthetic molecules with more focus on β -carboline molecules and their interaction with DNA using biophysical parameters, cell biology assays and various other relevant biological studies. He has visited University of Neuchatel, Neuchatal, Switzerland as part of the **ISJPR** programme in the year 2012, where he was involved in carrying out experiments using several modern bio-analytical techniques. This work has generated valuable data and it was published in a number of reputed journals. He has handled several research projects from various funding agencies. Now, he is involved in more than half a dozen research projects from different funding agencies.

CSIR-CCMB, where he is now serving as Chief Scientist, has several modern equipments like NMR, FT-IR, UV-Vis, ESI-MS, SEM, TEM, DSC, CD, Fluorimeters, FACS and confocal microscopes etc., By using these modern research equipments, he and his group members have generated high quality research data and published about 74 research papers in high quality, peer reviewed international research journals. He has couple of patents to his credit.

Recently, his group at CSIR-CCMB has initiated several studies that have applications in the area of bio-medical research. As a part of this activity, studies are in progress to develop a device for the detection of Homocysteine (Hcy) in human plasma. Recently, for developing a platform for COVID-19 vaccines and related aspects, his team has received funding from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India. The aim of the project is to develop mRNA platform for the development of vaccines to various viral infections.

Dr. Nagesh is dedicated, sincere and a hardworking researcher. He interacts well with his colleagues, has good communication and demonstration skills. Based on his commitment and vast experience and keeping his abilities in mind, I have no hesitation in recommending his candidature for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Award for the year 2021 and wish him good luck.

Sincerely,



Dr. Rakesh K Mishra
Director, Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, Bangalore
Former Director of CCMB, Hyderabad