



INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR GENETIC ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY NEW DELHI

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Dr. Ramesh V. Sonti
Director

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To
The Chairman,
Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards -2023

Sub: Nomination Letter for Dr. Ved Prakash Dwivedi for Sun Pharma Research Award-2023

I am delighted to write this recommendation for Dr Ved Prakash Dwivedi, a vibrant and an excellent research scientist of our institute. Dr. Dwivedi is a recent addition to our faculty group, having joined four years ago. My intimate interactions with him during this period have convinced me of his immense scientific potential, which synergizes with his single-minded dedication to the science of TB research.

In a short span of 4 years, he has established a fully functional immunobiology laboratory and is currently supervising six PhD students (national) and one international PhD student and more than 15 research trainees. Dr. Dwivedi is an active collaborator who readily shares his ideas and reagents with peers. He has also established collaborations with local TB hospitals for his research purpose. His overall approach is constructive, cooperative, and helpful. I feel secure giving him academic and non-academic responsibilities.

The publication record of Dr Dwivedi bears ample testimony to the extent of his current contributions to the field of tuberculosis and cellular immunology research. Some of his findings have opened up new vistas in cellular immunology. He has published 17 corresponding author papers from ICGEB in high-impact peer-reviewed journals. He has also bagged 4 national grants for his research during this period. Dr. Dwivedi works towards understanding the host protective immunity against tuberculosis. His group has recently generated an immunogenic complex against *M.tb*, consisting of promiscuous T cell epitopes and TLR ligands assembled in liposomes. Intranasal delivery of this complex significantly enhanced the vaccine efficacy of BCG (JCI Insight, 2021). This molecule (PTLs) has been patented and is presently in National Phases of various South East Asian and African Countries.

In his quest to design novel therapeutics against TB, his group recently demonstrated how immune modulation can enhance the potential of current anti-TB drugs by strengthening the long-lasting central memory and tissue-resident memory T cells during tuberculosis (PLoS Path, 2023; Microbio Spectrum, 2023a, Microbio Spectrum, 2023a; iScience, 2023; JID, 2023).

I strongly believe that he is an excellent scientist and has a bright future ahead. I, therefore, recommend him without any hesitation for the award of **Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards -2023**. I am confident that several exciting and potentially useful avenues will be opened up by his research.

Please feel free to contact me for any further details on Dr. Dwivedi.

With best regards,

Ramesh V Sonti

Dr. Ramesh V. Sonti

