

सीसीएमबी CSIR CCMB

कोशिकीय एवं आणविक जीवविज्ञान केन्द्र
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद)
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डॉ. विनय कुमार नंदिकूरी
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Dr. Vinay Kumar Nandicoori
Director

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JUSTIFICATION FOR NOMINATION

It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Santosh Chauhan for the **Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards, 2023 in Medical Sciences-Basic Research**. Dr. Chauhan has an excellent track record in biomedical research and is very passionate scientist. I provide below some of the glimpses of his career to justify my nomination.

Dr. Chauhan has identified proteins and mechanisms that control innate immune and autophagic responses to pathogen infection. His group identified new mechanisms of genesis of autoinflammatory diseases. An example of their work is on a medically important gene, IRGM. Human IRGM protein is a genetic risk-factor for multiple autoinflammatory diseases including Crohn's, Sjogren syndrome, and Ankylosing spondylitis, however for a decade the mechanisms by which IRGM control autoimmune diseases was not understood. In a series of publications (Molecular Cell, EMBO J, and EMBO reports), his lab elegantly defined the detailed mechanisms by which IRGM act as break to control inflammation and autoimmunity. This work got extraordinary attention internationally and was highlighted at multiple platforms. In addition to his work in cell autonomous defense, Dr. Chauhan lab identified mechanisms of cancer progression that could be targeted for cancer therapy (Cancer Research, EMBO J).

In the beginning of his independent career, he was qualified for three prestigious fellowships, Ramanujan Fellowship, Ramalingaswami Fellowship, and Wellcome-DBT India Alliance. Dr. Chauhan has demonstrated excellent leadership skills and created a platform for the interaction of autophagy biologists in India, now formerly called "Autophagy India Network." He is selected as one of the first EMBO global investigators by EMBO, Germany. In the last few years, he has conducted several international and national conferences to propagate and popularize science in India including two EMBO conferences. He is winner of multiple national awards, including R National Bioscience Award for Career Development (DBT) and NASI-Scopus young investigator award. He is an elected fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences (NASI) and Indian Academy of Sciences (IASc).

Dr. Chauhan is an excellent mentor as well. His student's outstanding accomplishments were also well recognized by multiple awards and accolades including Sun Pharma Scholar Award, NASI-Young Scientist award, INSA-Young Scientist award, and Cell-Press TNQ award among several.

I believe that Dr. Chauhan has very impressive professional accomplishments to be considered favorably for this award. I know that his training, intellect, his passion, and achievements are exceptional and make him an ideal candidate for this award.

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