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29 August 2023

The Sun Pharma Science Foundation
Research Award 2023

Subject: Nomination of Dr Arindam Talukdar (CSIR-IICB Kolkata) for Sun Pharma Award in the area of Pharmaceutical Sciences

I am pleased to nominate Dr. Arindam Talukdar (CSIR- Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata) for the Sun Pharma Award in Pharmaceutical Sciences. I have had privilege of knowing Dr Arindam Talukdar and closely followed his scientific growth in recent years as an excellent medicinal chemist, with his significant contributions. He did his PhD at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune and also contributed to an industrially funded project by CytoMed, USA. The key methodology developed by him was extended for the commercial manufacturing of β -blocker drugs by the Indian industry. Following his Ph.D., Arindam had two postdoctoral stints from the Ohio State and Purdue University USA. Before joining CSIR-IICB, Arindam also had industrial experience at Albany Molecular Research Inc, Singapore, where he was an inventor in the development and validation of first-in-class epigenetic target small molecules from HTS screening into the pre-clinical stage. He has a perfect blend of academic research and industrial expertise now reflected in the quality of his current work.

The key contributions made by him in the area of new drug discovery include (a) the discovery of a series of novel small molecule as dual TLR9/TLR7 antagonists – one of the advanced lead candidates is under advanced negotiation with Sun-Pharma and Zydus Cadila for licensing of the technology and (b) discovery of the non-Camptothecin quinoline derivatives as topoisomerase I inhibitors with potent anticancer activity. In the last few years, the work from Dr. Arindam Talukdar's lab led to a number of publications respected journals including *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*. He has number of US patents to credit. The research work under reference by the applicant is original, patented and does not violate any intellectual property rights held by CSIR. The research work under reference has not been submitted for any award in the past.

From my assessment of his contributions and from numerous interactions with him, during my association as a Director of a CSIR lab, I feel confident in nominating him. In my considered view, he is worthy of this important national recognition.

Regards


(Ram Vishwakarma)