

Ref: 23-08/SOP/HOS-0125
Date: 23 August 2023

JUSTIFICATION LETTER FOR NOMINATION
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter is provided to Dr. Mahendran Sekar who is currently working as an Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Chemistry Discipline, School of Pharmacy, Monash University Malaysia.

I know Dr. Mahendran since 2020. He was one of my research collaborators, and over a short duration of 3 years, I saw his great potential in research where he has made significant progress. Dr. Mahendran is a conscientious worker and has been consistently working on new drug design and development against neurodegenerative disorders. Dr Mahendran has over 15 years of teaching experience, including 11 years at Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL) in Malaysia where he taught pharmaceutical chemistry to pharmacy students. His presentation skills and student engagement are amazing, both of which are deemed as his gifted skills. To date, he has successfully supervised more than 25 undergraduates Final Year Projects and 4 postgraduate students (MSc and PhDs). His research focus is mainly in drug discovery and development of natural products against neurodegenerative disorders and their associated molecular mechanisms. Dr. Mahendran has more than 150 publications including in Web of Science & SCOPUS indexed journals as well as in book chapters. He is also a reviewer with several scientific journals of international standing.

At both national and international levels, Dr. Mahendran garnered several prestigious awards for his excellent contributions in both academic and research activities. For example, he received “MARA Outstanding Educator Award” in 2018. He also received the “Outstanding Researcher in Pharmaceutical Chemistry Award” during the “1st Annual Healthcare Meet 2018” organized by “Venus International Foundation”, Chennai, India. Dr. Mahendran has also received the “International Achievement Award 2018” from Education Expo TV-Companies Rating System (EET-CRS), India. His innovative research products won several gold medal awards at the International Invention Innovation & Technology Exhibition (ITEX) in three consecutive years (2017, 2018 & 2019). He also won Special Awards in National and International level Innovation Competitions & Exhibitions. Two of his innovative products have been patented in Malaysia. His innovative products secured “Best Innovative Product Award” in Defence, Security and Sustainability Exhibition 2017 (DSS 2017) organized by UPNM, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia & the Most Promising Invention Award in PERiNTIS 2018 (Invention and Innovation Competition of Private Higher Education Institution) Organized by Management & Science University (MSU), Shah Alam, Malaysia. Additionally, Dr. Mahendran has been awarded several internal and external government research grants, including one FRGS in 2019, three collaborative FRGS in 2019-2020, three internal Universiti Kuala Lumpur grants, and a Brain, Mind and Neuroscience Research Foundation (YPOMNM 2022) grant.

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Overall, Dr Mahendran is a good team worker and is willing to guide the rest and grow the team. He has pleasant manners, and is a pleasure to be around. He is a good learner and gets accustomed to various challenging situations in a fast manner. Dr. Mahendran has always impressed me as a young researcher with a lot of energy, being hardworking, intelligent, and independent. He can plan and execute his work without much difficulty and is most trustworthy.

Should you have any further queries, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Professor Gan Siew Hua
Head of the School of Pharmacy
MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA