



टाटा स्मारक केंद्र
TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE
कैंसर उपचार, अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा का प्रगत केंद्र
ADVANCED CENTRE FOR TREATMENT RESEARCH
& EDUCATION IN CANCER

Shilpee Dutt, Ph.D
Principal Investigator/
Scientific Officer "F"
Tata Memorial Centre
ACTREC, Navi Mumbai
Maharashtra, India
+91- 22-2740-5394
sdutt@actrec.gov.in
<https://www.shilpeeduttlab.com/>

Sub: Nomination for Saket V Mishra for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Awards

Dear selection committee members,

I am writing this letter with great enthusiasm to nominate **Mr. Saket Vatsa Mishra**, one of the outstanding Ph.D. students in my laboratory, for 'Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Awards' in the 'Medical Sciences-Basic Research' category.

I have known Saket since he joined my laboratory in August 2016 as a Ph.D. student after completing his M.Sc from AIIMS Delhi. He has earned the **DBT-JRF Ph.D. fellowship** from the Department of Biotechnology. For his thesis, he is addressing a fundamental problem of chemotherapy resistance in Leukemia which is the cause of high mortality in AML. To understand the biology of AML chemoresistance, Saket could successfully recapitulate the clinical scenario of AML resistance in a cellular model. The strength of this cellular model is that it's *ex vivo*, and multiple steps of evolution of resistance can be analyzed simultaneously, which otherwise would be impossible from patient biopsies. His findings provide novel and comprehensive molecular insights into the non-canonical role of DNA-PKcs as a transcriptional repressor. The significant outcome of his work is the demonstration of DNA-PKcs as a therapeutic target for refractory relapse AML cells. His work is a perfect example of 'Bench to bedside.' This work has earned him '**Carl Storm International Diversity Fellowship**' by Gordon research Conferences, prestigious **DMM Conference Travel Grant** by The Company of Biologists. He was also awarded the **best oral presentation award** for his work at the 'National Research Scholar Meet' in December 2020. Apart from that, he has attended and presented his work at several national and international conferences held in India, where his work was much appreciated.

Saket embodies the character of strong inquisition and industriousness, is knowledgeable, thorough, and dedicated towards his work. He is independent and never shies away from challenging questions or experiments. He has collaborated with scientists within and from other institutes to have an interdisciplinary approach towards his research question. Till now, his collaborations have led to 5 publications in which he is a co-author, of which 2 are his first author (**J Cell Sci. 2021; Biochim Biophys Acta Bioenergetics 2020; J Biophotonics 2020; Neuro Oncol. 2020; Int J Cancer. 2018**). All his collaborators find him very intelligent and hard-working. In all his projects, he is the driver (Intellectually as well as working on the bench). He has written his own manuscripts and has an analytical and mathematical bent of mind

Saket is a bright and enthusiastic young scientist. I would rate him among the top 5% of all the students I have been associated with at ACTREC as well as during my Post Doc and Ph.D. at Harvard and the University of Zurich. I strongly recommend Saket for the prestigious 'Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Award.'

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any information.

Sincerely,

Shilpee Dutt