

Signed Statement

I, Reena Bharti, hereby declare that the research work titled "*Transient transfection of the respiratory epithelium with gamma interferon for host-directed therapy in pulmonary tuberculosis*" published in *Molecular Therapy-Nucleic Acids* (2020) and "*Transient, inhaled gene therapy with gamma interferon mitigates pathology induced by host response in a mouse model of tuberculosis*" published in *Tuberculosis* (2022) has not received any fellowship or funding from external agencies other than CSIR-NET.

I would also like to acknowledge the significant contributions of my co-authors and collaborators: Trisha Roy, Sonia Verma, D. V. Siva Reddy, Hasham Shafi, Khushboo Verma, Sunil K Raman, Sampita Pal, Lubna Azmi, Amit K Singh, Lipika Ray, Madhav N Mugale, and Amit Misra. Their efforts in various stages of research, including experiment design, data collection, analysis, and manuscript preparation, were invaluable.

While this work is a collaborative effort, I have been the primary investigator and have led the research and development of the dry powder inhalation formulation containing DNA constructs to transiently transfect the lung and airway epithelium for host-directed therapy against pulmonary tuberculosis. I was responsible for conceptualizing and overseeing the entire project, including experimental design, execution, data interpretation, and manuscript writing.

This research has established the preclinical proof of concept for the efficacy of a DPI and dosing regimen as a host-directed and transient gene therapy for experimental pulmonary tuberculosis in mice, and I take full responsibility for the novelty, integrity, and overall scientific contributions of this work.

Signed, 

Reena Bharti