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Letter of Recommendation

It gives me immense pleasure to write recommendation letter for Ms. Ashu. I have known her since 2015 as a M.Sc. student in the Department of Biochemistry at All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. I taught various subjects during her classes including metabolism and immunology in depth. She kept excellent knowledge and command over immunology particularly in autoimmune diseases and cancer immunotherapy. During her dissertation, she studied the role of dendritic cells in immunopathogenesis of vitiligo under my co-supervision. She has good academic record and had grasped 1st division in her master's. Her MSc. thesis work is published in Journal of Cytokine.

Currently, she is pursuing her PhD thesis entitled "**Elucidating the role of memory T cells in Renal cell carcinoma** (RCC)". By focusing on memory T cells, she is trying to establish long term durable response of immune cells particularly CD8+ memory T cells against tumor tissue thereby increasing the overall survival of renal cancer patients. She studied the KCMF1 linked E2-E3 ubiquitin ligase mediated regulation of autophagy and ion channels in memory T cells of RCC patients. Disruption in networking and/or constitution of KCMF1 associated ubiquitin ligase cause deficiency in autophagosome formation and alteration in mitochondria fitness, hence memory T cells undergo apoptosis in RCC patients. Furthermore, she is working on ion channels and on sodium channel blocker with combination of checkpoint inhibitor to reverse dysfunctionality and induce expansion of memory T cells in renal cell carcinoma patients. She also studied functional aspect of KCMF1 in autophagy, hypoxia and in ion channels in tumor tissue of RCC patients. She recently published her findings in Journal of Cancer Research and Clinical Oncology.

Ms. Ashu is enthusiastic about doing science and given a chance to nominate for Sun Pharma Science Scholar Award 2023. She will have a chance to explore the science at international level. On the basis of her academic merits, I strongly recommend Ms. Ashu for your kind consideration for this award. I am confident that she will prove to be worthy of your selection.

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