

Registration No. SO066380 of 1990-1991, West Bengal

Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) approved by the
Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India

To,
The Office of SUN Pharma Science Foundation
8C, 8th Floor, Hansalaya Building,
15-Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place,
New Delhi 110 001 (India)

August 21, 2023

Subject: Nomination of Sugandha Arya for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Awards-2023

Dr. Sugandha Arya is working as faculty in Dept. of Pediatrics Safdarjung Hospital and Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, New Delhi since 2001. She is Professor and in-charge tertiary level care NICU with presence of mother 24X7. The job includes multiple functions including administration, clinical care, medical teaching of MBBS and MD students, and research.

She is a globally acknowledged researcher. She has been Clinical Investigator for several prestigious multi center, multi-country research projects coordinated by WHO, and Indian institutions: ICMR, DBT. To name few of them: Probiotics study, Vitamin D supplementation trial, DENIS study, Zinc Sepsis study, Immediate Kangaroo Mother care trial, neurodevelopment follow up study, among others

Presently, she is involved as Clinical Investigator for ACTION III trial and Immediate KMC Implementation Research project for improving the outcome of low birth weight babies, the significant concern for all.

She has been Clinical Investigator for path breaking multi-country 'Immediate Kangaroo Mother care Immediate KMC' trial (2017-2020). The trial required establishment of Mother-Newborn Intensive Care Unit (M-NICU) which is a facility where sick and small newborns are cared with their mothers 24 x 7 with all facilities of intensive newborn care and provision for postnatal care to mothers. Based on the encouraging results in newborn survival, the MOHFW, GOI directed future Level I newborn units to be Mother Newborn Care Units. She presented Mother in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (M-NICU) - Quality Improvement Innovation" in fifth National Summit by MOHFW on Good & Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare Systems held at Kaziranga, Assam in October 2018.

Results of Immediate KMC trial were published in high impact New England Journal of Medicine in May 2022, in which she was the first author. Immediate KMC trial was selected as 2021 EBNEO Impact Article of the Year. Concept of Immediate KMC was published in June

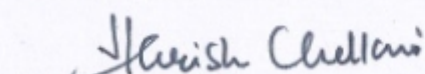
2022 issue of National Geographic Magazine entitled "Power of Touch". Post-hoc analysis of Immediate KMC trial, analyzing effect of Immediate KMC on newborn infections, was published in eClinicalMedicine, in which again she was the lead author.

Immediate KMC trial findings led to change in WHO recommendations on KMC on 17th November 2022 (World Prematurity Day). These guidelines recommend Zero separation of sick newborns from their mothers by establishment of Mother-NICUs, a paradigm shift in care of newborns which will go a long way in reducing neonatal mortality and morbidity.

Dr. Sugandha Arya was instrumental in replicating this model of Mother-NICU for sick newborns born outside Safdarjung Hospital. This is the first tertiary care facility of such kind in the country. This is a step in the direction of respectful care to mother- baby dyad. This will empower the mother to be care provider and better prepare her to care for the baby at home.

Dr. Sugandha Arya has greatly contributed to improvement in survival, health and development of newborns by both research and clinical practice.

Thanking you,



Dr. Harish Chellani,
Distinguished Scientist (Consultant)
Centre for Health Research and Development, Society for Applied Studies,
45, Kalu Sarai, New Delhi-110016,
Former Head Department of Pediatrics,
Safdarjung Hospital and Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, New Delhi
Mob. No. +91 98103 13072; Email: harish.chellani@sas.org.in



Corporate Office: 45, Kalu Sarai, New Delhi-110016, India

Tel: +91 11 46043751-55; Fax: +91 11 46043756; Email: CHRD@sas.org.in; Website: <http://sas.org.in/>

Registered Office: Primarc Tower, DN-36, Room No. 602, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata 700 091, India