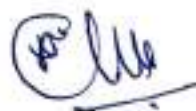


**Signed Justification for sponsoring the nomination (not to exceed 400 words) by the nominator:**

I have known Dr. Sunil K. Arora for more than 20 years as he worked as a faculty in the specialty of Immunopathology in PGIMER, Chandigarh, where I spent more than 25 years of my career, first as a faculty in Dept. of Hepatology, then as a Head of that department and finally as Director of the institute for 5 years. Sunil has worked very closely with my group as a collaborator in many research projects related to chronic viral hepatitis. I found him an excellent scientist with deep understanding of Immunology subject, which helped us understand the basic mechanisms of immunopathogenesis of hepatic viral infections. His research work focuses on the Immunological aspects of Infectious Diseases mainly HIV, HIV-TB co-infection, HCV and Experimental Leishmaniasis. His team has worked on identification and evaluation of protective efficacy of novel vaccine candidates for kala azar. Besides, his lab has been working to delineate the cellular immune defects in HIV and HCV infections with specific reference to maturation-defective myeloid dendritic cells. His team in PGI has done seminal work in the field of HIV-TB coinfection, where the group has unravelled some novel immune-mechanisms modulated by Mtb causing emergence of genetically diversified HIV variants having enhanced replication competence in HIV-TB co-infected individuals. The findings may have very important clinical implications and help to design novel treatment strategies for co-infected individuals. Additionally, he has also worked in the field of stem cells with special interest in role of mesenchymal stem cells as master modulators of immune response besides having regenerative capacity in chronic autoimmune inflammatory arthritis. He has been a very productive scientist as he has guided more than 25 PhDs to completion with 177 research publications to his credit in the peer-reviewed national & international journals of repute. He has been highly competent as he has received many research awards including Indo-US Young Investigator's award in 1991, Indo-US Fogarty Fellowship in 2012 and Senior Scientist Oration award in Immunology in 2018. He is a well-known scientist nationally as well internationally in the field of Immunology as he got elected as member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) in 2004, President of Indian Immunology Society (2018-2022) and The Cytometry Society (India) (2019-2021) and also got elected as President of The Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia-Oceania (FIMSA) for 2021-24. I strongly recommend his nomination for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Award in Medical science- Basic research category.



(Yogesh Chawla)  
**Dr. Yogesh Chawla**  
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