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Sun Pharma Science Foundation,
8C, 8th Floor, Hansalaya Building,
15-Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place,
New Delhi - 110001, INDIA

Subject: Letter from the Supervisor certifying that the research work submitted for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Fellowship has actually been done by the applicant.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to certify that the research work submitted for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Fellowship by Ms. Nilu V. Gone has actually been done by the applicant at my laboratory at CSIR-NCL, Pune. I affirm that Ms. Gone has independently conducted this exciting research work under my guidance. The project stands out for its originality, comprehensive execution, and reflects her personal diligence and expertise. This work has led to the development of a novel class of SARS-CoV-2 Main Protease (M^{pro}) inhibitor, and has been published recently. Nilu Gone *et al*: "Discovery of SARS-CoV-2 Inhibitors Featuring Novel Histidine α -Nitrile Motif" *Chem. Biodiversity*, **2023**, e202300957 (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/cbdv.202300957>). Patent application filed: **Nilu V. Gone**, Kiran Bokar, G. J. Sanjayan, "SARS-COV-2 inhibitors and method of preparation thereof". Patent application number: 0051NF2024/IN, **2021**. This novel class of SARS-COV-2 inhibitors raise the hope as a potent drug candidate to fight the dreaded SARS-CoV-2 and its variants.

With best regards and season's greetings,

Gangadhar J. Sanjayan

