

Annexure III: Citation (summary) on the outstanding research work on which award is claimed in about 250 words **signed** by the nominator.

A central question in *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (*Mtb*) research is to identify mechanisms of persistence and drug resistance. To fulfill this knowledge gap, Amit's group has developed the first non-invasive biosensor to measure redox physiology of *Mtb* inside macrophages and in animal tissues during infection in real-time. Combining this approach with a range of cutting edge technologies such as FACS-coupled RNA-seq and Seahorse bioenergetics profiling, Amit discovered host and bacterial mechanisms mediating drug tolerance in *Mtb*. This led to the discovery of a drug (chloroquine) that could be repurposed to accelerate tuberculosis treatment and was published in *Science Translational Medicine*. In yet, another unique and skilled academic effort Amit's work led to an understanding of the intricate connection between genetic mutations conferring drug resistance and their long-range physiological impact. Using a battery of techniques including computing, genetic assays and molecular and imaging tools, Amit modeled the complex physiological pathway along which a drug-resistant pathogen evolves when exposed to chemotherapy. The thrilling revelation of computational predictions being faithfully enacted by the bacterium understandably led to several high impact publications in *eLife*, *Redox Biology*, and *ACS Infectious Disease*.

Amit's outstanding scientific achievements have also encompassed the understanding of HIV, the causative viral agent of human acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). Amit spearheaded a research program to understand the role of redox and energy metabolism in catalyzing HIV-*Mtb* synergy. In doing so, his team identified an empirical role of exosomes secreted by *M. tuberculosis* infected cells in reactivating HIV-1 and developed artificial antioxidant nanozyme to subvert virus reactivation (Published in *mBio* and *EMBO MOL MED*).



Prof. V. Nagaraja
Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology
Indian Institute of Science
Bangalore 560 012, INDIA
Ph: 080 2360 0668, 080 2293 2598
Fax: 91 80 2360 2697
e-mail: vraj@iisc.ac.in