Aug 14, 2022

Sun Pharma Science Foundation

Sub: Dr. Amit Dutt' s nomination for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards in Medical Sciences- Basic Research

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to enthusiastically support Dr. Amit Dutta's nomination from ACTREC, Tata Memorial Centre, for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards in Medical Sciences- Basic Research. My evaluation stems from Dr. Amit Dutt's esteemed standing as an exceptional scientist in the realm of cancer research, encompassing basic, translational, and applied dimensions. Over the past decade, he has made remarkable contributions to cancer genomics within the field of Medical Sciences. I have closely interacted and followed Dr. Dutt's work for the past 11 years in multiple capacities.

Dr. Dutt stands as a well-established biomedical scientist who has significantly advanced our understanding of the pathobiology and genomics of epithelial cancers. His notable achievements include pioneering efforts in lung cancer, where he led the first systematic exploration in India to outline the landscape of actionable mutations specific to Indian lung cancer patients. This insight is of utmost importance, given its ethnic specificity. Dr. Dutt's astute insights also led to the identification and characterization of a novel mutation in *FGFR3*, along with a groundbreaking dosing strategy for the EGFR tyrosine kinase inhibitor Osimertinib in a lung cancer patient. This innovation has the potential to reduce treatment costs, thus transforming the landscape of lung cancer care. Furthermore, his research has the potential to substantially reduce the expenses associated with conventional diagnostics for *EGFR* and *KRAS* mutations in lung cancer.

In the realm of head and neck cancer, Dr. Dutt's team has produced a pioneering description of the pathogens linked with human cancer and genomic alterations in Indian-origin tongue cancer patients. Additionally, his recent work culminated in the identification of a therapeutically targetable fusion transcript in oral cancer, which led to the filing of a patent with Amit Dutt as the primary inventor from ACTREC- Tata Memorial Centre. Beyond his laboratory achievements, Dr. Dutt has developed user-friendly computational programs that extend the impact of his work.These representative research contributions to Medical Sciences illustrate a unique blending of the basic and translational cancer genomic research which Amit applies to a given research question, and his well desire to translate laboratory findings for a larger good of cancer patients. In brief, Amit is running an outstanding research program as evident by his ability to secure multiple, highly competitive National and International extramural research funding as well as consistently publishing meaningful cancer genomics studies in main-stream cancer journals.

Another notable aspect of Dr. Dutt's work is his ability to translate research breakthroughs and technical innovations into potentially affordable solutions for patient care. His deep understanding of cancer pathobiology, molecular medicine, and medical sciences at large is evident in his research endeavors.

Dr. Dutt's role as a mentor to students and young colleagues is invaluable. His research program provides a robust foundation for nurturing the next generation of cancer biologists in India. With the supervision of approximately 15 Ph.D. students and eight postdoctoral fellows, he demonstrates exceptional teaching and mentoring skills. This dedication extends to collaboration as well, with several co-authored publications resulting from collaborative projects.

In terms of interpersonal dynamics, Dr. Dutt garners appreciation for his focused and collaborative approach. He readily shares his scientific expertise and experiences, making him an outstanding team player and collaborator. This collaborative spirit is evident in his participation in numerous Scientific Review and Advisory Committees of national research institutes in India, as well as his service on editorial boards and delivery of over 200 invited lectures at scientific gatherings and universities.

Dr. Dutt's scientific contributions have gained substantial recognition and respect among his peers, as evidenced by his extensive citations. This recognition culminated in his receipt of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award and his inclusion among the top 75 scientists shaping India's future, according to the Dept of Science and Technology, Govt of India. He has also been bestowed with the Tata Innovation Fellowship award 2023 by the Dept of Biotechnology, Govt of India.

In essence, Dr. Amit Dutt is a leader in the field of Cancer Genomics, whose scientific contributions to Medical Sciences have earned him a prestigious reputation as a creative cancer genomics expert in India. His laboratory's research holds the potential to make tangible impacts on the lives of cancer patients through diagnostic advancements. Dr. Dutt's body of work has significantly expanded the domain of knowledge within Medical Sciences, especially in the realm of Cancer Genomics. His distinction as a biomedical scientist and scientific educator is underscored by his consistent record of original discoveries. For all these compelling reasons, I am wholeheartedly support the nomination of Dr. Amit Dutt for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards in Medical Sciences- Basic Research.

Sincerely,

Lalit

Dr. Lalit Kumar
MBBS, MD (Medicine), DM (Medical Oncology)
Chairperson-Oncology & BMT
Artemis Hospitals
Sector-51, Gurugram-122 001, Haryana
DMC Regn. No. - 7463