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Date: 23 August 2023

Signed Citation On Outstanding Research Work Contributions To Whom It May Concern

I would like to recommend Dr. Mahendran Sekar for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards 2023. Dr Mahendran has been an Associate Professor at the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry, School of Pharmacy, Monash University Malaysia since February 2023. In my view, he is an excellent candidate for this award since he is very active in novel drug research and development for neurodegenerative disorders research. His research focus is on natural product drug discovery and development for neurodegenerative disorders and their associated molecular mechanisms. Besides being physically active in research, Dr. Mahendran Sekar has over 150 publications in journal articles and book chapters in Web of Science and SCOPUS. He also serves as a reviewer for various international scientific journals.

The list of his publications demonstrates the success of his contributions to neuroscience, demonstrating how fruitful and diversified the research in neuropharmacology aimed at new drug design and discovery with the majority of papers focusing on stroke, neuroprotection, and stroke recovery. He has conducted various *in vitro* and *in vivo* investigations on natural compounds against neurodegenerative disorders. He is also an expert in chemical modification and molecular docking of natural phytoconstituents which can help improve the potency and efficacy of various natural products. The preclinical studies conducted are reliable and useful source as a basis to clinical trial when evaluating natural compounds' safety and efficacy for the treatment of five most common neurodegenerative disorders in particular Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and Huntington's disease.

I strongly support Dr. Mahendran Sekar's nomination for the Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Awards 2023. I believe that his efforts qualify him as an excellent contender for this prestigious award. Considering his capabilities and accomplishments, I hope you can consider my recommendation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require additional details about him.

Sincerely,

Professor Gan Siew Hua Head of the School of Pharmacy MONASH UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA

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