

**Justification for nominating Dr. Krishna Pandey, Scientist-G & Director ICMR-RMRIMS, Patna for The Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Award (Medical Sciences – Clinical Research)**

It is my pleasure to nominate Dr. Krishna Pandey, M.D. (Gen. Med.), Scientist-G & Director, ICMR-RMRIMS, Patna for the said prestigious award “**The Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Award (Medical Sciences – Clinical Research)**”. Dr. Pandey has more than 20 years experience in clinical research particularly in Visceral leishmaniasis (VL, commonly known as Kala-azar), Post Kala-azar Dermal leishmaniasis (PKDL), VL-HIV co-infections. Dr. Pandey has played pivotal role in successful completion of various clinical drug trials that ultimately eased the treatment of VL, PKDL and VL-HIV co-infection at grass root level.

Some of his major milestones that may be showcased include replacement of the first line drug SAG with miltefosine (the first ever oral drug) for VL treatment, 12-weeks domiciliary treatment with miltefosine for PKDL, recognition of Paromomycin and Amphotermol as anti-VL drug, short course combination therapies, Single dose AmBisome for VL, and others. His consistent endeavour has changed the cumbersome treatment with SAG and Amphotericin B to one-shot treatment with AmBisome under national Kala-azar elimination program.

Dr. Pandey also conducted various bioequivalence clinical studies to come up with cost-effective, safe and efficacious indigenous drugs (Liposomal Amphotericin-B). After implementation of miltefosine under program, pharmacovigilance study came out with issue of treatment compliance with miltefosine. Presently, this issue has been resolved with single-dose AmBisome therapy under the elimination program. He also significantly contributed to clinical research in VL-HIV co-infection.

Recently during COVID-19 pandemic, I came to know that Dr. Pandey lead the SII/ICMR sponsored Phase 2/3 COVISHIELD vaccine trial as Site PI for ICMR-RMRIMS, Patna. This vaccine trial was successfully conducted on healthy volunteers and now it is available under mass level vaccination drive for adult population by Govt. of India.

So far I know him, Dr. Pandey is a good orator and resource person for training & re-orientation program on clinical aspect of the disease. Last but not least, Dr. Pandey is a renowned clinician that can be envisaged by huge rush of patients in his OPD at the Institute. He has more than 150 publications in peer reviewed journals.



(Prof. Shyam Sundar)

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