



Letter of Justification

To recognize Ms. Chaudhari's exceptional performance as a research scholar working in pharmaceutical sciences, I recommend her for the Sun Pharma Science Scholar Award for 2021. As a PhD candidate, she focused on developing and advancing a supramolecular complex loaded formulation of cyclosporine A to treat dry eye.

In clinical terms, dry eyes pose a significant problem for every individual during his or her lifetime, in varying degrees of severity depending on the age and other factors. COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the problem due to excessive use of display-based electronics. Until now, the condition is not completely curable, but it can be managed and prevented. As a result, the project taken on by Ms. Pinal is unique for several reasons. The formulation of eye drops is completely free of oil-like excipients, clear and free from any micro/ nano-particulate matter, made from GRAS materials, and showed excellent outcomes in the *in vivo* model of the disease. The project due to its high relevance to the country is funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. Ms. Pinal is currently promoted to the post of Senior Research Fellow (SRF) under the sanctioned project.

Ms. Pinal is extremely active in research and has participated in several national and international events, and competitions. She is the recipient of the 1st Runner-Up Award (South Zone) in the Dissolution Research Presentation India – 2021 organized by the Society of Pharmaceutical Dissolution Science (SPDS) in association with the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS) and the Association of Pharmaceutical Teachers of India (APTI). Ms. Pinal has also received a special appreciation award at the Research Solution Challenge on COVID-19 organized by Dr. D.Y. Patil Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research (DYPIPSR), Pune, and the Phytosynergy, Pune.

Ms. Pinal has also devoted her time towards professional and personal development. She has served as the Committee Member in the Institutional Research Club by organizing workshops, events, and training sessions for the benefit of fellow researchers. She has authored several notable publications and more recently authored two cover articles in the prestigious AAPS NewsMagazine circulating worldwide. Ms. Pinal has also received travel grants from the Society for the Study of Xenobiotics (SSX), India, and the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) to present her research at international conferences.

To conclude, I want to express my strong support for Ms. Pinal for the 'Sun Pharma Science Scholar Award 2021' and I hope you will see fit to consider her application.

Sincerely,

Dr. Shaila Lewis
Associate Professor (Senior Scale)
Department of Pharmaceutics

