



## DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY AND CELL BIOLOGY

Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, 560 012, INDIA

Umesh Varshney, Ph.D.

Honorary Professor

Rm SA 08

Phone: 91 80 22932686

E-mail: varshney@iisc.ac.in

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### Re: Sun Pharma Science Foundation Award Nomination

**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 fulfil 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 on sulfur metabolism. Using a battery of techniques including computing, genetic assays and molecular and imaging tools, Amit modelled 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 **Science Advances** and **eLife**.

Amit's outstanding scientific achievements have also encompassed the understanding of HIV. 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 (Published in **mBio** and **EMBO MOL MED**).

Yours sincerely,

(Umesh Varshney)

Hon. Professor