To whomsoever it may concern

I, Dr. Chandraiah Godugu, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences (Regulatory Toxicology) and PhD supervisor of Mr. Biswajit Panda, has been authorised by the Registrar (I/c), National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Hyderabad, as a competent person to review the research work of Mr. Biswajit Panda.

I am nominating Mr. Biswajit Panda for **Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Fellowships 2024**.

He is pursuing his PhD in the topic "Understanding the regulatory role of PAD-4 on Del-1 and evaluating novel PAD-4 inhibitors for the treatment of Pulmonary Fibrosis". His thesis work specifically emphasises on the repression of endogenous anti-inflammatory mediator i.e. developmental endothelial locus-1 (Del-1) by peptidyl arginine deiminase-4 (PAD-4) and the potential of PAD-4 as a novel target with the need of new chemical entities (NCEs) against PAD-4 for the treatment of a deadly disorder i.e. pulmonary fibrosis (PF). PF is one of the leading cause of death that has gained significant attention following the outbreak of COVID-19. Till now, only two drugs are approved against PF i.e. pirfenidone and nintedanib that majorly signifies an urgent need to identify anti-inflammatory molecules and develop NCEs that target both inflammatory and fibrotic processes to tackle PF.

His devotion towards research has been explained by his publications. He has published 10 research and review articles with two first author articles. One of his thesis research work was published in the *International Immunopharmacology* journal having an impact factor of 4.8. His second thesis research work is currently under review in the *Life Sciences* journal having an impact factor of 5.2. The NCEs developed by him against PAD-4 have shown potent anti-inflammatory, anti-fibrotic and anti-NETotic effects in the *in-vitro* and *in-vivo* models of NETosis and pulmonary fibrosis. Hence, we are going to patent the experimental NCEs following which, we will be optimising the NCEs for better pharmacological effects. He also has an Indian patent to his name entitled "Nano-hyalurosomal gel of tofacitinib citrate and boric acid for the management of rheumatoid arthritis".

With his tremendous mind-set and his sustainable efforts in the direction of research he will be a deserving candidate for the award of this fellowship. He has a positive aura and shares a healthy relationship with faculties, fellow mates and actively engages in research related discussions. All these credentials and fortes impels me to strongly nominate him for the award of **Sun Pharma Science Foundation Research Fellowships 2024**.

Dr. Chandraiah Godugu, MS (Pharm), PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Biological Sciences (Regulatory Toxicology)
National Institute of Pharmaceutical
Education and Research (NIPER)
Balanagar, Hyderbad-500 037.T.S., India

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Dr. Chandraiah Godugu
Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences (Regulatory Toxicology)
National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER)
Balanagar, Hyderabad
TG, India, 500037