

From,

Dr. Saravanabhavan Thangavel,  
Scientist-E,  
Centre for Stem Cell Research (a unit of InStem, Bengaluru),  
Christian medical college campus,  
Vellore – 632002.

To whomever it may concern

It is my pleasure to nominate the graduate student of my lab Vigneshwaran Venkatesan for Sun Pharma Science Foundation Science Scholar Awards. I have known Vigneshwaran for the last six years where I am guiding him for his PhD thesis project in my laboratory at the Centre for Stem Cell Research (a unit of inStem), Christian Medical College, Vellore. I have observed his scientific aptitude, academic activities, and his commitment towards research. Hence, I can confidently discuss his skills and qualities in support of the nomination.

Through the period, under my supervision, he led a project focusing on developing a gene therapy strategy for  $\beta$ -hemoglobinopathies which was published recently in prestigious Molecular Therapy Nucleic Acids journal (DOI - <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.omtn.2023.04.024>). In addition to that, he also co-first authored a paper focusing on developing a culture condition for maintaining the functionality of the hematopoietic stem and progenitor cells (HSPCs) which was published in Human Gene Therapy Journal (DOI - <https://doi.org/10.1089/hum.2021.089>). He has also first-authored or co-authored a few of the research or review articles from our lab and from our collaborators which can be reviewed in the CV submitted along with this letter. Being an aspiring scientist, he is an exceptionally good team player and has helped his colleagues by giving them constant input on the experimental design and technical suggestions for the experiment. He has also received CSIR-NET LS, GET-IN fellowship (from IUSSTF), ICMR-SRF fellowship, and GATE.

Place: Vellore

Date : 30-08-2023

  
Signature of Nominator

Dr. Saravanabhavan Thangavel, Ph.D.,  
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