

Citation for the nomination of Dr Mallika Lavania for being considered for SUN PHARMA RESEARCH AWARD

Dr Mallika Lavania, has been engaged in leprosy research for nearly 17 years. During these years she has made significant contributions to molecular epidemiology and antimicrobial resistance in leprosy. In the context of the current scenario of elimination of leprosy the matter of drug resistance in leprosy has become pertinent in view of its public health importance. Using easy to use molecular techniques her work showed the occurrence of both primary and secondary rifampicin resistance as well as multidrug resistance in leprosy in India. Work carried out by her and colleagues as well as collaborators has provided new original information about the molecular mechanisms responsible for rifampicin resistance and possible solutions to deal with drug resistance in leprosy.

Her research work on the development of tools for early diagnosis and detection of resistance has made an impact on the proper treatment of leprosy cases. Her original findings about prevalent genotypes of leprosy bacillus in India, environmental presence of live *Mycobacterium leprae* from endemic areas of UP and later other parts of India has provided evidence for suitable interventions to identify sources, trace & block the chain of transmission thereby prevent the spread of leprosy.

Dr Mallika Lavania and her coworkers have contributed 61 research papers on leprosy in peer-reviewed journals. Many of her original papers are highly cited. Her research work, especially on emerging anti-microbial drug resistance in leprosy has been widely recognized and is important in current and future management of leprosy at patient and public health levels.



(VM Katoch)