Dr. Dipika Ramdas Kalambhe, Ph.D.

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[Date]

Search Committee
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
College of Medicine and Health Sciences
United Arab Emirates University, Al Ain, United Arab Emirates

Dear Members of the Search Committee,

I am applying for the Assistant Professor position in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Your advertisement lists molecular mechanisms of disease, and cancer first among them. That is the whole of my doctoral work. At the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, I spent eight years on a single question: why does combining two agents suppress metastatic breast cancer when neither does so alone? I answered it by measuring what changed inside the cell — with Western blot, RT-qPCR, ELISA, flow cytometry, immunofluorescence and immunohistochemistry — and showed that the combination induced apoptosis while simultaneously blocking epithelial–mesenchymal transition and vasculogenic mimicry. Closing three independent routes of escape at once is what produced suppression of both primary tumour growth and lung metastasis. The work is published in *Acta Pharmacologica Sinica* 46(12):3314-3326, where I am joint first author with equal contribution formally recorded.

Against the experience you require: I have eight years in an academic research institute rather than the two to three you ask for; a publication record in high-impact journals including *Journal of Controlled Release* (171 citations) and *Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B* (110 citations), where I am a contributing co-author, alongside first and joint-first authorship on three further papers; the molecular biology techniques listed, used daily for eight years; and **small animal handling**, which I did not merely assist with — I designed and ran the entire in vivo programme, including institutional ethics approval, dosing and route selection, longitudinal monitoring, biodistribution, terminal tissue collection, histopathology and organ-toxicity assessment.

Two things I should put in front of you rather than leave to be discovered. **I have not done protein purification**, which your required experience names. It is a technique I would need to learn, and I would rather say so than let it emerge at interview. And **my doctorate is in Pharmaceutics rather than Biomedical Sciences**. I read your “or a closely related discipline” as covering it, on the grounds that my training and output are in disease mechanism and molecular biology rather than in formulation alone — but you should judge that rather than take my word for it.

I am also aware that you would prefer five years of postdoctoral experience. I have approximately one. What I would ask you to weigh against that is output: seven peer-reviewed papers and 324 citations one year post-doctorate, a filed Indian patent (No. 202421042057) taken from concept through in vitro efficacy and in vivo safety evidence to filing, and two competitive international fellowships that funded the doctorate throughout.

On teaching: I hold D.Pharm, B.Pharm and M.Pharm qualifications alongside the doctorate and approximately three years of hospital pharmacy practice, so I can teach biochemistry and molecular biology with clinical examples that are mine rather than borrowed. I mentored Master's and undergraduate researchers throughout my doctorate in experimental design, cell-based assay technique and data analysis. I have not yet delivered formal lecture courses, and I would expect support in my first year.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the position and to meet the department.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Dipika Ramdas Kalambhe
Ph.D. Pharmaceutics, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences