Dr. Dipika Ramdas Kalambhe, Ph.D.

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[Date]

Prof. María José Alonso
Dept. of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Technology
CiMUS Research Institute, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela
Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Dear Prof. María José Alonso,

I am writing to ask whether you would consider a postdoctoral researcher in your group, and to propose a specific point of contact between your oncology programme and my own work.

Your laboratory's nano-oncology line develops multifunctional carriers targeted to tumour cells, **tumour-associated macrophages** and the lymphatic vessels. The macrophage arm is where I have already contributed. At the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, I was part of the group's macrophage-targeted nanomedicine programme, co-authoring work on lactoferrin-modified carriers directed at LRP-1 on activated macrophages in *Acta Pharmaceutica Sinica B* and a review of macrophage-based nanotherapeutic strategies in *Journal of Controlled Release*. I should be precise that those are papers I contributed to as a middle author rather than led.

What I led was my doctoral project: a mesoporous polydopamine-based Pickering emulsion co-delivering shikonin and the BET bromodomain inhibitor JQ1 to triple-negative breast tumours. It suppressed both primary growth and lung metastasis, and I established the mechanism as apoptosis induction combined with simultaneous blockade of epithelial–mesenchymal transition and vasculogenic mimicry. It is published in *Acta Pharmacologica Sinica* 46(12):3314-3326, where I am joint first author with equal contribution formally recorded.

I hope you will forgive me noting a small coincidence: my first-author review on nanotechnology-based strategies for modulating the tumour immune microenvironment appeared in *Drug Delivery and Translational Research*, which you edit. Writing it required me to survey how carriers can be used to reshape the myeloid compartment rather than only to kill tumour cells — which is the question your ONCO-siRNA and Oncoliberix projects appear to be answering experimentally.

I should be equally clear about the boundary. **Your laboratory's centre of gravity is biologics — RNA, antibodies, proteins, peptides and nanovaccines — and my delivery experience is with small molecules.** I have not formulated nucleic acids or proteins. What I would bring is the tumour-immunology and macrophage side, the full physicochemical characterisation toolkit (DLS, zeta potential, TEM, SEM, HPLC, UV–Vis), and an in vivo capability I have run unaided: study design and ethics approval, dosing, longitudinal monitoring, biodistribution, histopathology and organ-toxicity assessment.

On funding, I have checked the timing honestly. The “la Caixa” Junior Leader call requires a doctorate obtained between two and seven years before the deadline; mine was awarded in 2025, so I am not yet eligible for the 2026 round and would be for the next. In the meantime I am eligible for an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship, for which the 2026 call closes on 9 September, and I would be glad to write that proposal myself if you were willing to host it.

I have seven peer-reviewed publications attracting 324 citations and one filed Indian patent, and my doctorate was funded throughout by two competitive international fellowships. My CV and a research statement are enclosed, and I would welcome a short conversation.

Yours sincerely,

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