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[Date]

Prof. Jingyuan Wen

School of Pharmacy

Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland

Auckland, New Zealand

Dear Prof. Jingyuan Wen,

I am writing to ask whether you would consider a postdoctoral researcher in your group. I am approaching you directly because the overlap between your research areas and my own is unusually specific.

You work on novel pharmaceutical formulation and delivery system design, nutraceuticals, cosmetic product development, and **new drug discovery from natural products**. My filed Indian patent (No. 202421042057) is a single-use transdermal delivery system carrying a flavonoid-rich fraction of *Curcuma longa* for the treatment of acne — a botanical active, a dermal route and a cosmetic-adjacent indication, which is the same intersection. I carried it from formulation concept through flavonoid extraction and characterisation, patch optimisation, in vitro release, antimicrobial evaluation, skin permeation and in vivo safety to filing, and published the supporting study in the *Journal of Pharmaceutical Innovation* as first author.

My doctorate continued the natural-product theme in a different setting. At the Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, I designed a mesoporous polydopamine-based Pickering emulsion co-delivering shikonin — a naphthoquinone from *Lithospermum erythrorhizon* — with the BET bromodomain inhibitor JQ1. Shikonin is a textbook natural-product delivery problem: potent, poorly soluble, rapidly cleared. In triple-negative breast cancer models the system suppressed primary tumour growth and lung metastasis by inducing apoptosis while blocking both epithelial–mesenchymal transition and vasculogenic mimicry, and 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 not mind my mentioning a smaller connection. You took your Bachelor of Medicine and your Master's in pharmacy at Fudan University in Shanghai; I spent eight years at the Chinese Academy of Sciences institute in the same city. It is not a qualification, but it does mean we learned this subject in the same place.

Practically I would bring formulation design and systematic optimisation; characterisation by DLS, zeta potential, TEM, SEM, HPLC and UV–Vis; stability and release profiling; the cell biology that establishes a mechanism; and a complete in vivo capability including ethics approval, dosing, biodistribution, histopathology and organ-toxicity assessment, all run independently. Seven peer-reviewed publications, 324 citations, and two competitive international fellowships that funded my doctorate throughout.

I am aware there may be no advertised position. If that is so, I would still value a short conversation — and if a co-written funding application were the more realistic route, I would be glad to do the writing.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Dipika Ramdas Kalambhe

Ph.D. Pharmaceuticals, Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences