

Dr. B.R Ambedkar Center for Biomedical Research
University of Delhi
Delhi

Ranbaxy/ Sun Pharma Science Scholar Award



Ms. Deepali Joon, a Ph.D student of Prof Daman Saluja, Dr BR Ambedkar Center for Biomedical Research, University of Delhi (North Campus) was awarded the prestigious **Ranbaxy/ Sunpharma Science Scholar Award – 2015 for Young Scientists in the field of Biomedical Sciences**. Her award winning research work involved “Development and evaluation of rapid and sensitive in-house isothermal nucleic acid amplification assay for detection of *M. tuberculosis* for the diagnosis of pulmonary and extrapulmonary tuberculosis”. The study has led to development of a novel loop mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) assay targeting a region of *sdaA* gene of *M. tuberculosis* which was evaluated with clinical specimens for the diagnosis of pulmonary and extrapulmonary tuberculosis. *sdaA* LAMP assay generates a visual result rapidly in 45 minutes and is robust to carryover contamination. The assay has shown high sensitivity and specificity in comparison to culture as gold standard as well as composite reference standard. This research has implications in control of tuberculosis by providing potential point of care diagnostic test.

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Ms. Rashi Arora is a Ph.D scholar working under the mentorship of Prof. Daman Saluja in Dr B.R. Ambedkar Center for Biomedical Sciences, University of Delhi (North campus). She was selected for the **Sun Pharma Science Scholar Award-2016** in the field of Bio-Medical Sciences for research work entitled “**Esculetin induces antiproliferative and apoptotic response in pancreatic cancer cells by directly binding to KEAP1**”, wherein she has explored the anticancer potential of a naturally occurring coumarin derivative, esculetin in pancreatic cancer cells. Her work reported a loss of interaction between Nrf2 and KEAP1 on exposure to esculetin apparently due to direct binding between esculetin and KEAP1, that ultimately depletes ROS and abrogate NF- κ B activity (Arora *et al.*, Mol Cancer, 2016 Oct 18;15(1):64).