

Motivation letter

I, Dr Dharmagat Bhattarai, am a Nepalese early career immunologist. I have completed MD (Pediatrics) & DM (Doctorate ~Ph.D. equivalent) (Pediatric Immunology) from PGIMER, Chandigarh, India. This is the first and to date the only, such course in Pediatric Clinical Immunology in South Asia. I am serving as country representative for ESID and APSID from Nepal since 2021.

In Nepal, there is lack of awareness about inborn errors of immunity (IEI) among laity and clinicians too. I am the first and till date, only pediatric immunologist to have proficiency and degree on this subspecialty in Nepal. After DM training, I am dedicated on creating awareness about IEIs in Nepal. I also have established pediatric clinical immunology service to diagnose and treat immune disorders in Nepal. Till now, I have diagnosed 27 patients with IEIs (as per ESID criteria) and more than 300 patients with autoimmunity and immune dysregulation, which I have recently presented in International Primary Immunodeficiency conference (IPIC)-5th edition in Portugal. I am going to present the scenario in upcoming ESID international meet at Sweden, too.

I strive to remain myself updated. For this purpose, I have gone for 1 month training to University Hospital Bristol, NHS, UK and now for 3 months fellowship at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), USA.

I have come across the largest registries of patients with Primary Immunodeficiency disorders (PIDs) in India. I have come across PID registries of institutes of UK and USA recently. I have more than 40 PubMed-indexed international medical journal articles. During this time, I have published more than 200 educational videos, news articles and interviews in different language for creating awareness about IEIs. I have also operated free camps in Nepal to diagnose hidden and unseen cases of IEIs in Nepal. There is lack of advanced diagnostics and therapeutics in Nepal. I am planning to bring these facilities in Nepal to diagnose more and more cases.

I am an existing country representative of ESID now. In this period, I have participated in many journal clubs and contributed in ESID, APSID and IPOPI international meetings. In addition, I have conducted many presentations, lectures and workshops in Nepal and India for pediatricians, health workers and general public. I am also being a country contact point for physicians and patients who have immunological interest and concerns. I encouraged juniors to pursue this specialty. I also encouraged them to be an ESID member.

I would again like to nominate myself as ESID country representative for Nepal for 2022-2024. Immunology is my passion. Only through colossal clinical as well as research work and worldwide collaboration in immunology, it will be possible to recognize and manage these disorders in resource-limited countries like Nepal. I and my country stand to benefit immensely from this representation and

it will augment my experience at this stage of my career. I shall be grateful for your concurrence and approval in this regard.

Till date, I am the only pediatrician working in this subspecialty in Nepal. An honoured representative post will provide me further energy to do more works in this field. This will not only provide me a platform to work efficiently but also help me to get academic and logistic outlook from ESID and affiliated organizations to accomplish dream of immunological diagnosis and treatment in Nepal. This will also put Nepal in arena of the world's immunology.

When put into practice, experience gained as ESID representative will foster a firm background to move ahead in development of science of immunology in Nepal and worldwide. I hereby request you to consider my application for an ESID Junior Country representative for Nepal. I am a member of ESID (membership no.- 16543) (Membership type: Junior membership, Membership renewed date: 2022-01-05).

I would relish the opportunity to be actively involved in clinical immunology and researches related to IELs representing a poor South Asian country. I hope you allow me that privilege.

I hope you would find this request in order.

Thanking you.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Dharmagat Bhattarai

MD (Pediatrics)

DM (~Ph.D.), Pediatric Clinical Immunology and Rheumatology

(From: Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research Chandigarh, India)

Currently: **Advanced Centre for Immunology & Rheumatology, Kathmandu Nepal**

(In a temporary visiting scholar post at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA)

E-mail: dharmagat@yahoo.co.uk

Contact: +977-9840253195 (Nepal); +1-9294880597 (USA)

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