

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

**VEPACHEDU EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INC., USA**  
**BEST RESEARCH FELLOW AWARDS**

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This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter “MOU”) on the institution of Sri Gopalkishanrao Vepachedu Memorial Best Senior Research Fellow Award effective from 26th day of September Two Thousand Three, **AND** Srivari Best Senior Research Fellow Award effective from 26th day of September Two Thousand Five, (hereinafter “Awards”)

BETWEEN

The Vepachedu Educational Foundation, Inc., located at 1230 Georgetown Way, Vernon Hills, IL 60061, USA (hereinafter “VEFI”), on one hand

AND

The Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (being a constituent Research & Development Laboratory of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, New Delhi, Government of India), located at Tarnaka, Uppal Road, Hyderabad - 500 007, India (hereinafter “IICT”), on the other hand

## WHEREIN

- IICT is a premier research and development institute engaged in research of world class and generates highly skilled scientific personnel in the area of chemical sciences and other scientific areas.
- VEFI is a non-profit organization dedicated to promote education and research anywhere in the world.

### **Guidelines For the Vepachedu Educational Foundation Inc., USA, Best Senior Research Fellow Awards**

- The aim and purpose of the **Awards** is to encourage scientific temper and excellence in India in general and at IICT, in SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMISTRY in particular.
- VEFI shall, under the Sri Gopalkishanrao Vepachedu Memorial Best Research Fellow Award Endowment (hereinafter “Endowment”), give the Awards to **TWO** Senior Research Fellows (SRFs) at IICT, who are pursuing his/her final year PhD, or in the process of submitting the thesis or who have submitted the PhD theses during the award year and displayed excellence in research in **Synthetic Organic Chemistry**. For the purpose of the Awards, “synthetic organic chemistry” is defined as the branch of chemistry concerned with the synthesis of the compounds of carbon, but excluding simpler compounds such as CO<sub>2</sub>, HCN etc., and does **not** include other branches of science such as analytical chemistry, biochemistry, bio-inorganic chemistry, inorganic chemistry, physics, physical chemistry, spectroscopy or any other sciences that support or interface with synthetic organic

chemistry. “Synthesis” as used herein, is limited to the development of methodologies for synthesis and total synthesis of natural and unnatural organic compounds beneficial for the humanity.

- Each Award consists of a silver plaque, a certificate and an honorarium. The Director of IICT or Chief Guest of the function presents the Award to the selected best SRF every year on the CSIR Foundation Day, The 26th of September.
- The silver plaque given to the first candidate displays Sri Gopalkishanrao Vepachedu Memorial Best Senior Research Fellow Award and the silver plaque given to the second candidate displays Srivari Best Senior Research Fellow Award,
- VEFI has donated a sum of Rs. 100,000.00 (One Lakh Indian Rupees only) for the Endowment. The said amount will be deposited in the State Bank of Hyderabad or any other Government Bank, as a Fixed Deposit by IICT, under the Endowment account. The accrued interest on the said money, every year, is utilized towards the honoraria and other costs incurred for the Awards to the two best SRFs at IICT. *VEFI and Dr. Chandrasekhar Srivari will provide enough funds to make the total amount of Rs. 10,000/-, in addition to the interest from the endowment.*
- An Executive Committee for the Endowment (hereinafter “the Executive Committee”) consisting of three permanent members and a Selection Committee consisting of three temporary members along with the Executive Committee members are established. The permanent members of the Executive Committee are 1) the Director, IICT, 2) the Head, Department of Research Management Area, IICT, and 3) the Vice President of VEFI. The Executive Committee nominates the temporary members of the Selection Committee from amongst the IICT scientists or scientists from outside, to select the candidates for the award. The tenure of each temporary member of the Selection Committee may be two


years or as determined by the Executive Committee. Thus, the Selection Committee consists of three permanent members and five temporary members.

- The Selection Committee reviews all the accomplishments of SRFs who are pursuing their PhD work at the IICT in the area of organic chemistry. The respective research guides nominate the candidates. Ten candidates from the nominated candidates will be selected based on the impact factor of their publication in the preceding year. Then the Selection Committee will request the selected ten candidates to provide the Selection Committee with abstracts of their PhD work for evaluation of the PhD work of each candidate that is part of his/her thesis for the award of PhD. The selection will be based on 1) the quality of work evaluated by outside referees selected by the Selection Committee, and 2) an oral presentation, each of which carrying a 45 marks. Each outside referee evaluating the abstracts for the quality of the work awards 45 marks. Each selection committee member awards up to 45 marks for the oral presentation. The average of all the points given for the abstract and the oral presentation is counted in each category and the sum of points from all the categories is the overall score of each candidate. Two candidates who get the highest overall points will be selected for the awards. If there is a tie between two candidates, 10 marks are used to break the tie at the discretion of the Vice President of the VEFI by using any criteria that may be at his/her disposal. In the event, a student or relative of the Vice President of the VEFI is a candidate; the Director of the IICT or the Head of RMA or a Selection Committee member will exercise the tiebreaker vote.
  
- The following timelines are set for the application and evaluation process, which will be strictly followed every year. Failure of any candidate to meet any deadlines will disbar his/her candidature.
  - Notification Requesting Nominations: Second Monday of February
  - Last Date for Submission of Nominations: Last Working Day of February
  - First Round Selection of Ten Candidates: Second Monday of March
  - Last Date for Submission of Abstracts: Last Working Day of March

- Evaluation of Abstract by Outside Referees (45 marks): Last Working Day of May
- Oral Presentation (45 marks): Second Monday of June
- If any of the students or relatives of the Selection Committee members are candidates for the award, those members will recuse themselves from the selection process. However, the Vice President of VEFI will participate in the entire process.
- It is the policy of the Foundation to write full names according to English and Sanskrit grammar and English nomenclature. Accordingly, it is agreed that, the Family name or surname must be written after the given name. Both the family and given names must be written without any abbreviations in all the plaques, certificates and any other communications.
- IICT agrees to provide copies of the abstracts and photographs of the awardees for VEFI records every year, as VEFI is required to keep such records for the Internal Revenue Service of USA, filing and audit.
- The Executive Committee may amend these guidelines, subject to approval by the President of VEFI, USA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF

FOR THE INDIAN INSTITUTE  
OF CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY,  
HYDERABAD, INDIA

  
(Sreenivasarao Vepachedu)  
FOR THE VEPACHEDU EDU-  
CATIONAL FOUNDATION INC,  
USA