

Sushil A. Prabakaran, M.D.
PGY3 Resident,
Tulane/Ochsner Pediatric Residency Program,
Tulane University School of Medicine
1430 Tulane Ave., SL-37
New Orleans, LA 70112-2699
Phone: (504) 717-4818
Email: sprabaka@tulane.edu

Dear Dr. Agarwal,

Hope this letter finds you in good spirits and health. I have been contemplating for quite sometime, as to how to express my gratitude to you. At last, I came up with this idea of putting everything that I felt about you and your program into words.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to you for being an excellent Mentor, Friend, Guide, and Guardian. Personally, speaking I value your acquaintance more than sea of research opportunities that I got in your program.

Being raised in the family of scientists, I always had the passion for research. Your program satisfied my hunger and provided the knowledge and tools that I craved for. Not to mention the time I spent in the lab which became my primary home. I deeply appreciate the work ethics that you inculcated in all the research fellows. Although, at first I was perturbed by the work load, I later realized the benefits of it. All the endless hours that I spent in the lab gave me the taste of true research and I reaped the benefits in the form of publications. In residency there is a saying that intern year is the toughest one and later on it doesn't get any better, but you get used to it. However, in my case I felt intern year less challenging than my days at Cleveland clinic. This made me to cruise through not only my intern year but the entire residency.

My research experiences in your lab were multifocal. It included learning techniques of semen analysis, DNA damage, ROS and TAC measurements, cryopreservation, writing grants, publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals, presenting in the case national/international conferences, reviewing the manuscripts, statistical analysis of data including meta-analysis, quality control and maintenance of equipments. I also gained experience in precepting the summer students and training international scholars. This helped me in the residency program when I dealt with medical students.

On the lighter side, I truly miss all the birthdays and other celebrations that formed a quintessential part of the program. It engraved a strong sense of comradery and solidarity among the staff and research fellows. It changed my entire perception of the program, provided the human element and transformed it into a social networking platform.

My goal to come to US was motivated by two ambitions. One is to gain research experience and the second one is to get the best possible clinical training. I was able to achieve the first goal in your program. However, the thoughts of joining a good residency program constantly hammered me. At that time, you were kind enough to understand my concern and allowed me to prepare for my exams and attend interviews. Your strong letter of recommendation immensely helped me in getting matched in the prestigious Tulane University residency program. I was elated with ecstasy.

When I was in the cross roads of applying for my fellowship, I was discouraged by many that my aspiration of becoming a pediatric cardiologist was unrealistic. However, I was confident not because of my residency training, but because of the extra leverage, I had in the form of journal articles and research experiences including grant writing, oral presentation, abstract presentation etc...The stiff competition I faced didn't deter me. My research experience boosted my confidence. Then came the good news of matching in the University of California, San Diego program for the cardiology fellowship. This is when, I truly realized the importance of research work that I accomplished from your program.

To summarize in short, by being in your program, I was enriched by the research experience, invigorated by motivation, touched by the human values and drowned in the sea of friendship. To tell that your program is a remarkable one is an understatement. It is a life changer.

Please convey my regards to your family members and colleagues in the department.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Sushil Prabakaran

Sushil Prabakaran, MD

June 14, 2009

RESEARCH GRANTS

1. Correlation of Apoptotic Markers with Sperm Fertilization Potential (2004), RPC # 07025/IRB # 7546
(Principal Investigator)
2. Characterization of intracellular reactive oxygen species in human spermatozoa (2004), RPC # 07549/IRB # 6967 **(Co-investigator)**

PUBLICATIONS

1. Agarwal, A, **Prabakaran, SA**, and Allamaneni, SSR (2006): Relationship between oxidative stress, varicocele and infertility: a meta-analysis. *Reprod Biomed Online* 12(5): 630-3
2. Agarwal, A, **Prabakaran, SA**, and Allamaneni, SSR (2006): What an andrologist/urologist should know about free radicals and why? *Urology* 67(1): 2-8
3. Agarwal, A, **Prabakaran, SA**, and Said, TM (2005): Prevention of Oxidative Stress Injury to Sperm. *J Androl* 26(6): 654-660
4. Agarwal, A and **Prabakaran, SA** (2005): Oxidative stress and antioxidants – a difficult balance. *Iranian J Reprod Med*, 3:1-8
5. Agarwal, A and **Prabakaran, SA** (2005): Mechanism, measurement, and prevention of oxidative stress in male reproductive physiology. *Indian J Exp Biol* 43(11): 963-74
6. Agarwal, A, **Prabakaran, SA**, Agarwal, R and Thomas, AJ (2006): Re-assessing the value of varicolectomy as a treatment for male infertility: A new meta-analytical approach. *Fertil Steril* 86 (3): S372-S373
7. **Prabakaran, SA**, Kumanov, P, Tomova, A, Hubaveshki, S, and Agarwal, A (2006): Adolescence varicocele: association with somatometric parameters. *Urologia Internationale* 77(2): 114-117
9. **Prabakaran, SA**, Agarwal, A, Arjun, S, Sudeep B, Thomas, AJ, Sikka, SC (2006): Cryosurvival of testicular spermatozoa from obstructive azoospermic patients: Cleveland Clinic experience. *Fertil Steril* 86(6): 1789-91
- 10: Marmar, JL, Agarwal, A, **Prabakaran, SA**, Agarwal, R, Short, RA, Benoff, S, Thomas Jr, AJ,(2007): Reassessing the value of varicolectomy as a treatment for male subfertility with a new meta-analysis. *Fertil Steril* 88(3):639-48
11. Agarwal, A, **Prabakaran, SA**, Sikka, S (2006): Current Opinions on varicocele and oxidative stress and its role in male infertility: Touch briefing: *US Genitourinary disease* – June 2006
12. Agarwal, A, Sharma, RK, Desai, NR, **Prabakaran, SA**, Tavares, A, Sabanegh E, Role of oxidative stress in pathogenesis of varicocele and infertility. *Urology* 73(3): 461-69

MEETING ABSTRACTS

1. Nallella, KP, Aziz, N, Guruswamy, R, **Prabakaran, SA**, and Agarwal, A. (2005): Etiology of male infertility as diagnosed within a comprehensive infertility service program. In: 30th Annual Meeting of the American Society Of Andrology, April 2-5, Seattle, WA, Abstract # 76.
2. Guruswamy, R, Aziz, N, Nallella, KP, **Prabakaran, SA**, Li, L, and Agarwal, A (2005): World Health Organization standards of traditional semen analysis: revisited. In: 30th Annual Meeting of the American Society Of Andrology, April 2-5, Seattle, WA, Abstract # 77.
3. Nallella, KP, Guruswamy, R, **Prabakaran, SA**, and Agarwal, A (2005): Extent of overlap of sperm parameters between fertile men and patients evaluated for infertility. In: 30th Annual Meeting of the American Society Of Andrology, April 2-5, Seattle, WA, Abstract # 165.
4. **Prabakaran, SA**, Agarwal, A, and Thomas, AJ (2005): Cryosurvival of testicular spermatozoa from obstructive azoospermic patients: The Cleveland Clinic experience. In: 51st Annual meeting of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, October, 15-17, Montreal, Canada, Poster # P-196.
5. **Prabakaran, SA**, Agarwal, A, and Allamaneni, SS (2005): Is oxidative stress a missing piece in varicocele related infertility puzzle? A meta-analytic approach. In: 51st Annual meeting of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, October, 15-17, Montreal, Canada, Poster # P-728.
6. Agarwal A, **Prabakaran SA**, Ranga G, Sundaram AT, Shama RK, Sikka SC (2006), 'Relationship between cell phone use and human fertility: an observational study'. Fertil Steril 86 (3) Supplement 1 S283.

PODIUM PRESENTATION

Agarwal, A, Nandipati, KC, **Prabakaran, SA**, Tomova, A, Kumanov, P, (2005): Is Inhibin B a better marker of male reproductive potential. In: 51st Annual meeting of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine, October, 15-17, Montreal, Canada.