

No. 24/217/2014-Public
Government of India / Bharat Sarkar
Ministry of Home Affairs / GrihMantralaya

North Block, New Delhi.
Dated 8-7-2014

ORDER

Subject: First appeal under Right to Information Act, 2005.

Whereas Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta/ Mr. Prakash Munshi had sent an application dated 29.04.2014, received on 02.05.2014, seeking information under Right to Information Act, 2005.

2. Whereas the CPIO had sent a reply vide letter number 24/217/2014-Public dated 15.05.2014.

3. Whereas Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta/ Mr. Prakash Munshi has sent an appeal dated 26.05.2014 received on 03.06.2014 against the information provided by the CPIO.

4. The appeal was examined and it is found that the reply given by the CPIO is correct. However copy of the citation of Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee is enclosed herewith.

5. The Appeal is disposed of accordingly. The appeal is being disposed of after 30 days due to exigency of work but within 45 days in accordance with section 19(6) of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Encl: Citation of Dr. S. Mukherjee.

Satpal Chouhan
8/7/14

(Satpal Chouhan)
Joint Secretary (Admn.)
& Appellate Authority
Tel. No.: 2309 3178

989/2/2014
87.

Ms. Juhi Chawla Mehta/ Mr. Prakash Munshi,
3 Raj Niketan, Opp Sahyadri State Guest House,
B. G. Kher Marg, Mumbai-400006,
Maharashtra.

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NFC

Padma Shri



Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee is an Indian-born American physician, scientist and writer. He is best known for the 2010 book, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer* which won the Pulitzer Prize and an award from *The Guardian*. It was named one of the 100 most influential books written in English since 1923 by *TIME* and one of the 100 best works of non-fiction by *The New York Times Magazine*. Currently he is an Assistant Professor of medicine at Columbia University and Staff Physician at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City.

2. Born on July 21, 1970 in New Delhi, Dr. Mukherjee attended St. Columba's School in Delhi and as a biology major at Stanford University, he worked in Nobel Laureate Paul Berg's laboratory defining cellular genes that change the behaviors of cancer cells. He then won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, where he earned a D.Phil. in immunology from Magdalen College, Oxford. After graduation, he attended Harvard Medical School (HST) where he earned an M.D. His postgraduate years consisted of a residency in internal medicine followed by an oncology fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital.

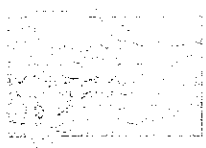
3. As a hematologist and oncologist specializing in the treatment of leukemia and pre-leukemic diseases, Dr. Mukherjee is known for his work on the formation of blood and the interactions between the micro-environment (or "niche") and cancer cells. He is also known for promulgating the theory of cancer as an "organismal" disease - i.e. a disease best studied at a whole organism level, with particular attention to its cellular context. His work has been published or featured in major scientific journals, including *Nature* and *The New England Journal of Medicine* and major magazines such as the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker* and *Granta*. His scientific work addresses the links between normal stem cells and cancer cells. His lab, based at Columbia University's Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, has performed investigations on the microenvironment of stem cells, focusing particularly on blood-forming stem cells. The lab has also identified novel genetic mutations in myelodysplasia and acute myelogenous leukemia and has played a leading role in finding therapies for these diseases in the clinical setting. His work has been recognized through many NIH and private foundation grants, including the prestigious NIH "Challenge Grant" awarded to pioneering researchers in 2009.

4. Dr. Mukherjee has published widely in scientific journals, including papers in *Nature*, *Neuron*, the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*, *The New England Journal of Medicine* and others. In 2010, Simon & Schuster published his book, *The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer*, detailing the evolution of diagnosis and treatment of human cancers from ancient Egypt to the latest developments in chemotherapy and targeted therapy. The *Oprah* magazine listed it in its "Top 10 Books of 2010". It was also listed in "The 10 Best Books of 2010" by *The New York Times* and the "Top 10 Nonfiction Books" by *Time*. It won the Pulitzer Prize.

5. Dr. Mukherjee has been honoured with many awards such as Rhodes Scholarship (1993-1996), Gabrielle Angel's Leukemia Foundation Award in 2010, Pulitzer Prize for *The Emperor of All Maladies* in 2011, PEN/E. O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award for *The Emperor of All Maladies* in 2011, Cancer Leadership Award (shared with Kathleen Sebelius and Orrin Hatch) in 2011, *TIME* magazine included *The Emperor of All Maladies* as 100 Best Non-Fiction books of all *TIME* in 2011, *Time* included him as the 100 most influential people in 2011, *Guardian* Prize for *The Emperor of All Maladies* in 2011, Boston Public Library Literary Lights in 2012 and Memorial Sloan Kettering Medal for Outstanding Contributions to the Biomedical Sciences in 2013.

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JIJI CHAWLA MEHTA

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Dy. No. ...
दिनांक/Date 5/6/14

ASTED

May 26, 2014
3/6/14

Shri Satpal Chouhan
Joint Secretary (Admin),
Room no 194, Ministry of Home Affairs,
North Block, New Delhi-110001

RTI appeal
Dir (ABV)
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Dear Satpalji,

Appeal under Section 19(1) of the RTI Act.
RTI Application dated April 29, 2014 re Padma Shri Award to Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee

We have received a reply dated May 15, 2014 on May 19, 2014, the answers of which are not as required by us as explained below in the RTI Application filed with Ministry of Home Affairs.

The information provided by Ms Shyamala Mohan, Director and CPIO were already known to us before filing our RTI application.

Please note that the information requested by us was as follows :

- (i) How many nominations were received for awarding Padma Shri to Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee?
What were the names, address, phone numbers, name of organisation, designations of persons who nominated Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee?

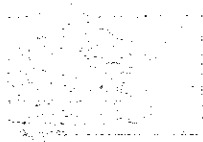
The reply provided by Director & CPIO is:
Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee was recommended by the Padma Awards Committee.

We are aware that the recommendation is made by the Padma Awards Committee. However we had specifically asked details as given under point no. (i). However the detailed reply as requested by us has been avoided by the Director & CPIO.

We are sure this information is available with you and the same can be provided to us.

- (ii) On what basis was the Padma Shri Award given to Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee?

In reply to our (ii) query we have been informed:
Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee was awarded Padma Shri for his 'distinguished service' in the field of Medicine.



JUHI CHAWLA MEHTA

We had questioned his contribution and "distinguished service" in the field of medicine and the stand taken by him of "No link between mobile phone radiation and cancer" with a lot of documents and press notes and International Communication on Social Media received by us, which was sent together with our RTI application dated April 29, 2014 under the RTI Act, 2005. We are enclosing herewith copies of the same for your reference.

Please acknowledge receipt of this file.

Yours sincerely,

Juhi Chawla Mehta

Prakash Munshi