

**Matthew C Fisher**

Professor of Fungal Epidemiology

02/02/2022

Dear SERB International Research Experience (SIRE) scheme

**RE: Letter in support of Dr Aneesh E. M. application**

This letter is to signal my very enthusiastic support of Dr. Aneesh's application to visit my Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory at Imperial College London. Specifically, my interest in collaborating with Dr Aneesh is our closely allied interest in the epidemiology and ecology of emerging infections, and in this case those that cause fatal chytridiomycosis in amphibians.

My laboratory is world-leading in terms of our ability to diagnose genotype and lineage of pathogenic fungi that are causing infections. These techniques are giving us an unparalleled ability to understand the globalised processes that are causing the spread of pathogenic fungi, and to understand their consequences in vulnerable ecosystems – such as those found in the Western Ghats in Kerala.

I would be very happy to host Dr Aneesh's visit to my laboratory to learn the molecular toolkits and methodologies that we have developed, so that he can apply these to research questions in India. My laboratory is familiar with this process of 'technology transfer', and I have had many very rewarding collaborations with my valued Indian colleagues over the years. Moreover, I am interested in forging further links between my **Department of Infectious Disease Epidemiology** and Dr Aneesh's **Centre for Research in Emerging Tropical Diseases, CRET-D**, at the University of Calicut as I see many synergies between our various research programs that we can exploit. Dr Aneesh's visit will hopefully act as a 'pump primer' for these activities and I look forward to introducing Dr Aneesh to my colleagues more widely in the Imperial College School of Public Health.

Do not hesitate to contact me with any queries.

Yours with thanks,

Matthew Fisher



Prof. Matthew C Fisher