



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Davis College

Plant & Soil Science™

April 15, 2024

Dear Selection Committee,

I am pleased to recommend Dr. Gunvant Patil, an assistant professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Science, for the Davis College Jr. Faculty Award. Dr. Patil has been in his current position since January 1, 2020, and *although it is his first year of eligibility for this award, this is his final year to submit for this award prior to his promotion and tenure dossier submission*. Gunvant has an outstanding set of accomplishments in research, teaching, and service that I think merit consideration for this award.

Research and Mentoring

Dr. Patil excels in balancing basic and translational research toward sustainable agriculture. He has outstanding accomplishments at TTU, which I will present in bullet form for your convenience:

- **\$5.4 million** in grants, with **\$2.16 million** credited directly to his lab in 4 years.
- **22 refereed papers** and **two book chapters in four years** at TTU.
 - Most journals have IF > 4.0.
 - His TTU students have led 14 publications to date.
- **3053 citations and an h-index of 30** in Google Scholar.
- Received TTU **Global Exchange Seed Grant** for a research visit to John Inns Center and Cambridge University, UK

In short, Dr. Patil is one of our most productive scientists. He also is not afraid to get his hands dirty and conducts much of his research at the farms.

Teaching

Dr. Patil is deeply committed to his students. **He is one of our few assistant professors to teach a large-scale undergraduate course (PSS1321; Agronomic Plant Science) right off the bat**, and he also teaches PSS5325 (Transgenic Plant Cell Genetics) to graduate students. He is a passionate instructor who consistently receives positive feedback and high evaluation scores, and he has incorporated several innovative pedagogical approaches and top-level guest lecturers on pertinent topics.

Service

In his time at Texas Tech, Dr. Patil has reviewed more than 65 research articles, edited over 20 articles and serves as an Associate Editor of *The Plant Genome*, *PLoS One*, *Scientific Reports*, and *Frontiers in Plant Sciences* journals. He has served as Dean's Representative for TTU Biological Sciences Ph.D. defense and served as external evaluator for three international Ph.D. theses. He serves as a panelist for USDA-ARS Plant Genetic Resources, Genomics & Genetic Improvement National Program (NP #301) and National Science Foundation's Plant Genome Research (NSF-PGRP).

Dr. Gunvant Patil far exceeds our expectations of assistant professors and is already becoming a top-tier scientist. I strongly endorse him for the Davis College Jr. Faculty Award.

Respectfully,

Glen L. Ritchie, Ph.D.

Chair, Department of Plant and Soil Science