

RESEARCH ETHICS MEETING MINUTES

08 June 2015, CBEC, SIUT, KARACHI

A Meeting of the Research Ethics Committee (REC) was held on 08 June 2015 post NBC meeting at CBEC-SIUT, Karachi. Professor Dr Aasim Ahmad, Chaired the meeting.

Following Members of the REC attended the meeting:

1. Dr. Aamir Mustufa Jafarey,
2. Professor Muni Saleemi,
3. Dr. Farkhanda Ghafoor,
4. Dr. Saima Pervaiz Ali,
5. Dr. Salman Ahmed Tipu,

The meeting started with recitation of holy quran.

- Dr. Asim Ahmed mentioned that TORs for NBC-ERC be circulated to new members and also briefly described what these TORs cover. He also briefed new participants about the scope of NBC-ERC and new application form.
- Dr. Saima Pervaiz asked if foreign funded multicenter studies should come to NBC-ERC for ethical approval. Dr. Asim Ahmed responded, may be not, but these should go to individual IRBs of all centers involved. Only studies that have national importance should come to NBC-ERC.
- Dr. Amir Mustufa Jafery briefed NBC-ERC members about the NBC website and showed his reservations on the slogan that appears on the website and some other elements of NBC like downloads/periods under the minutes heading etc. and suggested to make appropriate changes. Dr. Arif Munir welcomed any suggestions for the purpose.
- It was decided by mutual agreement that reviewers should send their comments to chair and secretariat only and not to all members because it skews the comments of other members.
- Dr. Arif M raised question that it is observed that once an institution has taken approval from NBC for a particular study then if they make any modification they do not get approval from NBC rather they get that approved from IRB, Is that alright?. Dr. Asim Ahmed mentioned as far as there is no change in the protocol and they are just including more institutions then its fine if they have obtained IRB's approval.
- Dr. Farkhanda Ghafoor raised a query that if a herbal drug is already marketed then can one conduct a clinical trial to see it's efficacy? Dr. Asim Ahmed mentioned that to evaluate any herbal medicine the drug should go throughout the same protocol/ scientifically rigorous as any allopathic medicine to have ethical validity.
- Dr. Farah raised a concern that that most of the studies carried out in universities Universities where MPhil and PhD studies are being done, don't go through the ethical review. Dr. Asim

Ahmed responded that all such institutes should have ERCs and all studies involving human subject research should go through the ERC review.

- Dr. Amir Jafery mentioned that we should have a comparison of the previous ERC application form and the newer one . DR. Asim Ahmed and Dr. Arif Munir agreed to that and proposed that those who have already got their proposal approved can be asked for their views on the both forms.

Meeting ended with the vote of thanks by Chair- Dr. Asim Ahmed.