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| **15th Punjab Bioethics Group Meeting**Shalamar Medical & Dental College, LahoreFriday, June 2nd 2023 |

# **Call to order**

The 15th meeting of **Punjab Bioethics Group** was held virtually at **Shalamar Medical & Dental College, Lahore** on Friday, 2nd June 2023. The meeting was moderated by Dr. Sarosh Saleem and lasted an hour; & was attended by the following professionals from various institutes of Pakistan.

**Attendees included:**

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| Dr. Afifa Ehsan, Dr. Faiza Ahmad |
| Dr. Farkhanda Ghafoor Dr. Nuzhat I Malik |
| Dr. Gul Afshan Dr. Farah Naz |
| Dr. Iqra Aziz Dr. Sundus Iftakhar |
| Dr. Junaid Rashid Dr. Shabbir Bhatti |
| Dr. Naila Nizami Dr. Sharmeen |
| Dr. Nousheen Dr. Mumtaz Lakhani |
| Dr. Sarosh Saleem Dr. Nasim Tariq  |
| Mr. Kashif Dr. Jaweria Razzaque |

**Regrets:**

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| Dr. Saadia Shahzad |

# **call to order**

Two cases were discussed. The participants engaged in the discussion with enthusiasm.

# **New business**

Dr. Maryam/Moazzama from Community Medicine department, SMDC, presented a case for discussion related to Research Ethics. The case involved Dr. A, an assistant professor of Anatomy, who is a dedicated and enthusiastic professional. She has two publications and one abstract presentation in the last three years. Dr. A is currently working on a research article with her colleagues and aspires for promotion.

However, Dr. A is disheartened by the strict promotion criteria set by Medical Councils, especially regarding the number of publications required and the limited time duration. Despite her hard work and dedication, she feels that it is challenging for a clinician with family responsibilities and a busy academic schedule to meet these criteria.

A debate ensued among attendees about the purpose of research and whether the current publication requirements are achievable and meaningful. Some attendees shared concerns about quick-fix solutions offered to Dr. A to meet the criteria, questioning the credibility of such publications.

Most attendees felt that the current publication requirements are too strict and may not lead to valuable research. They agreed that the criteria should be changed to understand the difficulties clinicians encounter and encourage more meaningful research. The meeting decided to revisit and revise the research promotion criteria to match the real challenges clinicians face. The main goal is to promote valuable research contributions instead of just focusing on the number of publications within a specific time limit.

**Case 2:**

Another case was discussed related to a distressing incident at Children's Hospital Lahore, where a registrar on duty was violently attacked by a group of miscreants from the patient's family. The medical staff and doctors responded by closing down the Outpatient Department (OPD) and staging a protest, demanding justice and improved security measures for healthcare professionals.

Dr. Farrukh Javed, a senior vice president of the Punjab Young Doctor Association, expressed his dismay on Twitter, questioning the lack of security legislation and lamenting the authorities’ failure to address this longstanding concern. He wrote, “Have you ever witnessed scenes like this in a CMH hospital? For years, we have requested security legislation from the authorities, but they have never listened. Pathetic.” Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has been urged to address the issue immediately, implement effective security protocols, and bring the perpetrators of this appalling assault to justice

Participants expressed deep concern over violence in healthcare settings, emphasizing the need to prioritize the safety of medical staff and patients. They urged authorities to conduct a thorough investigation and implement measures to prevent future incidents. The meeting highlighted the significance of addressing violence against healthcare workers and creating a safe working environment. It was suggested that an urgent action should call for, including the implementation of effective security protocols to protect medical professionals.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

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**Suggestions:**

Participants were encouraged to bring ethical issues to the discussion table without any hesitation.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by the moderator Dr. Sarosh Saleem with thanks to all attendees for their support, encouragement and valuable contributions. The date and timing of the next meeting was decided to be held on Friday, 2nd June 2023.

**Minutes recorded by:**

***Sadia Rehman Rao***