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| **Punjab Bioethics group Inaugural meeting**Shalamar Medical & Dental College, LahoreFriday, Dec 4th 2020 |

# Call to order

The second meeting of **Punjab Bioethics Group** was held at **Shalamar Medical & Dental College, Lahore** on Friday,Oct 4th 2020. The meeting was virtually attended by professionals from various institutes of Punjab.

**Attendees included:**

Virtual members:

Dr. Shabbir Bhatti

Dr. Afifa Ehsan

Dr. Ali Raza

Dr. Muneer Akhtar

Dr. Saadia Shahzad

Ms. Madiha Mumtaz

Dr. Farkhanda Ghafoor

Dr. Kashif Butt

Dr. Muhammad Maqsood

Dr. Sarosh Saleem

Ms. Hadiqa

Dr. Aamir Bashir

Mr. Omar Nisar

Regrets:

Dr. Adil Akhtar

Dr. Rubeena Badar Khan

Dr. Hasan Shoaib

Sana Tariq

# Agenda of meeting

# -Review of minutes

# -Review of TORs

# -To be or not to be? A dilemma faced by medical students during the COVID pandemic (presented by Final Year MBBS student)

# -Ethical Issues in Online Medical Education: How Prepared Are We? (Prof. Dr. Aamir Bashir)

# Meeting minutes

Meeting started at 9.30am and Dr. Sarosh shared the minutes of the first Punjab Bioethics Group meeting. The group suggested sharing the TORs with members for comments. It was informed that that had already been done and if anyone has any comments or suggestions they may share via email.

It was reinforced that Punjab Bioethics Group aims to:

* Bring professionals of Punjab with interest and curiosity in ethical issues on one forum
* Develop cooperation and collaboration in various domains of Bioethics, i.e Research Ethics, Clinical Ethics and Bioethics Education, etc
* Strengthen discourse on ethical issues faced in practice

**Presentation:**

Omar Nisar, a final student of MBBS at Shalamar Medical & Dental College shared the challenges faced by medical students during COVID Pandemic. He started off by acknowledging that this is a difficult time for everyone. Omar mentioned how students are particularly facing risky situations during their clinical rotations. The main question he posed to the group was how to ethically balance the risks to health (their, and their families) with their responsibility towards medical education. Another important aspect he mentioned was the lack of preparedness of colleges/teachers.

Dr. Aamir Bashir, talked about responsibilities of students as well as the teachers. He talked about unpreparedness on behalf of the teachers and also about unrealistic expectations from online teaching/learning. The need to upgrade our technical skills to run effective online teaching and learning and utilizing optimal tools is essential for medical teachers. Effort is required to manage these challenges. Prof. Shabbir Bhatti stressed on the importance of assessment and evaluation using online formats. Prof. Maryam raised the question for medical students by asking them if they can ethically refuse clinical service or care. If they cannot ethically do so, they cannot also refuse clinical rotations as this is an essential part of their training. Lack of interest in online and otherwise learning is one of the biggest issues at hand.

**Suggestions:**

Challenges of medical education during pandemic are real and pose important questions regarding the extent of risk medical students can be exposed to in order to complete their clinical training. It all requires extra effort from institutions, faculty and students and above all a will to overcome the challenges. Many group members seemed eager to discuss medical education related issues and so it was suggested that medical educators should engage in discourse about these challenges and share their respective experiences on another forum. Students appreciated the fact that their concerns were heard and faculty also shared their challenges. It can be safely said that we are all struggling and we shall come of these challenges together.

 **Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned by the moderator Dr. Sarosh with thanks to all attendees for support and encouragement. The date and timing of the next meeting were decided as 5th February 2021 at 9:00am.

Minutes recorded by :

Sarosh Saleem