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| **21th Punjab Bioethics Group Meeting**Shalamar Medical & Dental College, LahoreFriday, JULY 05, 2024 |

# **Call to order**

The 21st meeting of the **Punjab Bioethics Group** was held virtually on Friday, July 5, 2024, and was moderated by Dr. Sarosh Saleem. The meeting lasted one hour. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by the members. The meeting involved discussions of two cases and was attended by professionals from various institutes in Pakistan. Participants engaged actively in the discussions.

**ATTENDEES INCLUDED:**

Dr. Sarosh Saleem; Nasim Tariq ; Miss Farah Naz, Dr. Anum Ishtiaq, Dr. Salman Khurshid, Dr. Fareeha Farooq, Dr. Sadia Shehzad; Mehtab Sikandar; Dr. Mumtaz Lakhani; Dr. Jamshed; Dr. Gul Afshan; Dr. Salman Waheed; Dr. Farkhanda; Dr. Fatima; Dr. Naeem Zafar

# **Agenda**

1. Dr. Anum Ishtiaq from Liaquat National Hospital, Karachi, presented on "Milk Banks in Nurseries - Ethical, Legal & Religious Context."
2. Dr. Salman Khurshid Imami from SMDC, Lahore, discussed "Ethical Dilemmas in Clinical Emergency Research – CPR vs. No CPR."

# **New business**

**Case 1:** Dr. Annum Ishtiaq presented on "Milk Banks in Nurseries - Ethical, Legal & Religious Context." In June 2024, Karachi's largest pediatric hospital launched a "Shariah-Compliant" Human Milk Bank, which was inaugurated by the Sindh Government as a milestone in maternal and child health. The initiative faced significant backlash, including fatwas from clerics questioning its adherence to Shariah principles, leading to the bank’s closure within ten days. Dr. Ishtiaq emphasized the need for a thorough examination of the ethical, legal, and religious dimensions of such initiatives. She stressed the importance of engaging clinicians, scholars, ethicists, and religious leaders in developing clear, practical guidelines and fostering open dialogue. Establishing transparent protocols and enhancing public education are crucial to balancing religious beliefs with the critical need for safe infant nutrition.

**Case 2:** Dr. Salman Khurshid Imami from SMDC, Lahore, presented a case on "Ethical Dilemmas in Clinical Emergency Research – CPR vs. No CPR." The discussion focused on the intricate ethical issues involved in deciding whether to administer CPR in emergency research settings. Dr. Khurshid Imami emphasized the difficulty of balancing the potential benefits of CPR against the associated risks and ethical concerns in research contexts. Due to technical issues, the discussion was not completed and will continue in the next meeting

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned by the moderator Dr. Sarosh Saleem with thanks to all attendees for their support, encouragement, and valuable contributions. The next meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2024, at 09:30 AM.