



UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR

HAZRATBAL, SRINAGAR

KU 2024-BTC-6950
Dated: 05/01/2024

Notes

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Institutional Biosafety Committee, University of Kashmir

Date: 30-12-2023

Time: 10:30AM

Venue: New Meeting Hall (Room number 204),
New Administration Building,
University of Kashmir

Attendees:

- 1) Chairman: Dr. Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo, Professor and Dean Research, University of Kashmir, JAMMU & KASHMIR
- 2) Outside expert: Dr. Ayub Qadri, Professor (Expert IBSC), Islamic University of Science and Technology, JAMMU & KASHMIR
- 3) DBT nominee: Dr. Abid Hamid, Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Central University of Kashmir, Ganderbal, JAMMU & KASHMIR
- 4) Internal expert: Dr. Fayaz Ahmad, Professor, Dept. of Zoology, University of Kashmir, JAMMU & KASHMIR
- 5) Internal expert: Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Wani, Professor, Department of Botany, University of Kashmir, JAMMU & KASHMIR
- 6) Internal expert: Dr. Shajrul Amin, Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Kashmir, JAMMU & KASHMIR
- 7) Member secretary: Dr. Abrar Ahmad Qurashi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, University of Kashmir.
- 8) Biosafety officer: Dr. Khalid Nazir, Medical Officer/Coordinator, Health Centre, University of Kashmir

Apologies:

Prof. Rais Ahmad Qadri (Member) Dept. of Biotechnology, University of Kashmir could not attend the meeting due to other commitments.

Minutes:

The meeting began with Chairman Prof. Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo welcoming the members and expressing gratitude for the IBSC's dedication to ensuring biosafety at the University of Kashmir. He outlined the committee's responsibilities in implementing biosafety and biosecurity measures, followed by a vision for the future of the IBSC at the University. The members then listened to the short presentations made by the applicants. This was followed by the discussion.

1. Project Title: "Elucidating the role of BAG3 in cytoskeletal remodelling: implication on cell proliferation"

Principal Investigator: Prof. Firdous A Khanday (Dept. of Biotechnology)

Duration: 3 years

Level of Biosafety: BSL-1

Recommendation: The committee approved the proposal for the requested period. The details related to genetic manipulations, including vector maps and gene sequences, in this project need to be submitted to the IBSC.

Dr. Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo

Dr. Khalid Nazir
Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Wani
Dr. Shajrul Amin
Dr. Abrar Ahmad Qurashi
Dr. Fayaz Ahmad



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- II. **Principal Investigator:** While the proposal was submitted by the Ph.D. student, the committee recommends that the applications must be formally submitted by the supervisor/co-supervisor/Principal Investigator/Co-Principal Investigator (whatever is applicable). This will ensure appropriate oversight and responsibility for such proposed research projects or Ph. D workplans involving a carcinogen or other such themes. In such cases the Ph.D. student's can be listed as the primary researcher's within the applications.
- III. **Experience:** The Principal Investigator should demonstrate his experience for handling carcinogens like DMH and animal in the revised application.

3. **Project Title:** *Use of BALB/c syngeneic mice and induction of tumor in them for research purposes"*

Principal Investigator: *Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Mir* (Dept. of Bioresources)

Duration: 3 years

Level of Biosafety: BSL-1 and BSL-2

Recommendation: Due to the Principal Investigator's absence, the committee was unable to fully discuss and provide comprehensive feedback on the submitted application. To facilitate a complete review and address any questions, the committee strongly recommended that Dr. Mir should attend review meetings as and when project is submitted in the domain of Biosafety measures.

4: General Discussion:

The meeting emphasized the critical importance of adhering to DBT Secretariat guidelines for biosafety and the need to actively engage with research labs to increase awareness and understanding of these regulations.

Following points and approaches were highlighted during the discussion:

1. Prof. Abid Hamid expressed concern about the low number of applications for biosafety clearance from university research labs. He emphasized the critical importance of adhering to DBT Secretariat guidelines and the need to actively engage with research labs to increase awareness and understanding of these regulations.
2. The committee identified a need for enhanced communication and collaboration between the IBSC and other relevant university entities. This includes Dean Research, Dean's and head's of concerned Schools. Such collaboration would streamline information dissemination and promote a collective commitment to biosafety.
3. Prof. Ayub Qadri emphasized the importance of PIs taking direct responsibility for biosafety, stressing that all applications for clearance should come directly from them. Prof. Hamid strongly encouraged PIs to attend IBSC meetings in person, allowing for in-depth discussions and comprehensive review of research proposals.
4. Members highlighted the multiple benefits of obtaining prior IBSC approval for research proposals. This includes ensuring compliance for funding eligibility, preventing research delays due to later biosafety concerns, and facilitating research publication through biosafety clearance declarations.
5. The committee highlighted the need for regular training programs for researchers and lab personnel on DBT guidelines and best practices for biosafety. Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Wani suggested that PI's to deposit signed copies of their presentation slides after each IBSC meeting, and also recommended to conduct periodic lab visits to assess compliance and provide constructive feedback. The committee welcomed Prof. Shajrul Amin's suggestion of earlier notification of IBSC meetings to provide ample time for PI's to prepare and submit biosafety

Manzoor Ahmad Mir
Shajrul Amin
Aijaz Ahmad Wani
Abid Hamid
Ayub Qadri



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Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12.15 PM

Next Meeting: The date and time of the next meeting will be communicated to the members in due course.

Minutes recorded by: Dr. Abrar Ahmad Qurashi Member Secretary, IBSC

Signatures:

(Prof. Irshad Ahmad Nawchoo)
Dean Research, University of Kashmir
(Chairman)

(Dr. Abid Hamid)
~~Associate~~ Professor, Department of
Biotechnology,
Central University of Kashmir (DBT Nominee)

(Prof. Ayub Qadri)
Professor, Islamic University of Science and
Technology
(Outside expert)

(Prof. Fayaz Ahmad)
Professor, Department of Zoology, University of
Kashmir
(Internal expert)

(Prof. Aijaz Ahmad Wani)
Professor, Department of Botany, University of
Kashmir
(Internal expert)

(Prof. Shajrul Amin)
Professor, Department of Biochemistry,
University of Kashmir, JAMMU & KASHMIR
(Internal expert)

(Dr. Khalid Nazir)
Medical Officer/Coordinator, Health Centre,
University of Kashmir
(Biosafety officer)

(Dr. Abrar Ahmad Qurashi)
Assistant Professor, Department of
Biotechnology, University of Kashmir
(Member secretary)