

# Research Ethics Committee

Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro

Minutes of Meeting

08<sup>th</sup> September 2022

---

A quarterly meeting of the Research Ethics Committee was held on Thursday 08<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 in the alumnae office of the LUMHS, Jamshoro

The following attended the meeting:

- 1. Prof. Dr. Ali Muhammad Waryah** **Chairman**  
Professor Department of Molecular Biology  
LUMHS Jamshoro
- 2. Prof. Dr. Feroz Kalhoro** **( Member )**  
Professor & Dean  
Faculty of Dentistry  
LUMHS Jamshoro
- 3. Prof. Dr. Moen Ahmed Ansari** **( Member )**  
Professor & Dean  
Faculty of Medicine  
LUMHS Jamshoro
- 4. Prof. Dr. Binafsha Manzoor Syed** **( Member )**  
Professor & Director  
ORIC/MRC, LUMHS Jamshoro
- 5. Prof. Dr. Shoaib Ansari** **(Member )**  
Professor, Department of Medicine  
LUMHS, Jamshoro
- 6. Prof. Dr. Pushpa Goswami** **(Member )**  
Professor, Department of Anatomy  
LUMHS, Jamshoro
- 7. Dr. Ramesh Lal** **(Member)**  
Lecturer,  
Dentistry, LUMHS, Jamshoro
- 8. Dr. Sikandar Munir Memon** **(Secretary)**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Community Dentistry  
LUMHS, Jamshoro

The meeting was started with the greetings by the chairman to new body of Research Ethics Committee. Prof. Ali Muhammad Waryah mentioned that the regular frequency of REC meetings was not achieved in last few years due to COVID-19 issues. The review process of research proposals and synopsis was made online and physical contacts and meetings were minimized to follow the government policies regarding the COVID-19. However, the quarterly physical meetings of the REC will be resumed now onward to discuss the ethics related issues and matters of the studies being conducted at the University.

Following points were presented by the members and discussed for improvement and expedition of the ethical review process of research proposals and synopses of the students.

**Item: 01**

Prof. Binafsha Manzoor shared her points for discussion; she told that supervisors of the students should be mentioned as Principal Investigators instead of students. Prof. Waryah seconded it and further added that PI is a key position and students are going to learn about the research at this stage, as per HEC PI must be a researcher with the highest degree and position as supervisor. Prof. Shoaib Ansari added that CPSP required that student should be a Principal Investigator. Prof. Binafsha further clarified that it should be a requirement for the students of the university only as university follows the HEC guidelines for research and academics.

Finally it was decided that Supervisor should be listed as Principal Investigator on the application form of Research Ethics Committee. The students will be communicated through the Dean office of the relevant faculty.

**Item: 02**

Prof. Ali Muhammad Waryah inform the committee that number of synopsis for ethical clearance has increased due to increase in the induction of students in various existing and new degree courses at the university. The traditional method of student's presentation for ethical clearance was abolished due to COVID-19 issues. Individual presentation for ethical clearance was time consuming and it may take more time in case of increasing number of applications. Further, Prof. Moin Ansari added that all the students already present their synopsis in the technical meeting of the relevant faculty so there is no need to repeat the presentation. Prof. Waryah further explained that all the studies having zero risk or ethical issues will be reviewed by one reviewer of ethics committee and approval will be granted as per recommendation of the reviewer. However, if any significant ethical concern was found in any study; that will be subjected for discussion in the full Research Ethics Committee meeting in the presence of PI and other relevant investigators.

All participants agreed to expedite the ethical review process of synopses of students to save their time and only studies with major ethical concerns will be discussed in the full meetings of REC.

**Item:03**

In connection of the Item 02, to expedite the review process, Dr. Sikandar memon suggested that, the review process should be online, as the reviewers may check the softcopy quickly wherever they are and they may submit review report online with comments. It may be a quick process to complete review and save the time of students. Moreover, REC may complete the review process maximum by 30 days.

All members agreed to start online review of REC applications as the duration of review may be minimized and review process may be expedite.

**Item: 04**

Dr. Sikandar memon suggested that there grant form should be submitted to REC and REC office process grant applications and a research paper should be published before the thesis. Prof. Feroz added that there is separate committee notified by the University to entertain the grant applications. Prof. Waryah added that processing of grant application is not domain of REC. It has only mandate to check for the conflict of interest, if any, among funding bodies and researchers. In addition, publication of a research paper must be ensured by concerned supervisor, department chair and faculty head. Again it is not domain of REC to monitor the publication of students.

**Item: 05**

Prof. Waryah inform the committee that, it has been observed that students and researcher do not fully comply with the requirements of REC such as getting consent form from all participants; process and store research data as per REC recommendations. So REC should expand its role and monitor the compliance of ethics guidelines for completed and ongoing research studies at the University. This will ensure that all researchers' activities are being conducted as per recommendation and guidelines of REC at the time of approval of the application. In this regard, the undertaking form by the researchers/students should also be amended with the addition of the statements, confirming that The REC has privilege to check and monitor the status and documentation of the protocols at any time during the progression or after completion of the study. The REC will select the research studies randomly for its inspection and will visit the concerned department after establishing liaison with the department chair and faculty head.

All participants agreed to take this initiative as this may improve the quality of the research and will make sure the compliance of REC recommendations in true letter and spirit.



**Prof. Dr. Ali Muhammad Waryah, PhD**  
Chairman,  
Research Ethics Committee

**Cc for information to:**

- All the Deans, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences.
- All members Research Ethics Committee, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences.
- Director Postgraduate Medical Centre, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences.
- Pro. Vice Chancellors, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences.
- P.S. to the Vice Chancellor, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences.
- P.A. to Registrar, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences.