



MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE (IBSC), BITS, PILANI – K K BIRLA GOA CAMPUS

Meeting held on 27/07/2020 (Monday), 1100-1155 hrs. over Google Meet online platform due to situation created by global pandemic

Attendance:

Members Present			
Prof. G. Raghurama (Chairperson)	Dr. Samir Damare (External Expert)	Prof. Utpal Roy (Internal Expert)	Dr. Sumit Biswas (Internal Expert)
Prof. Sunil Bhand (Member Secretary)	Prof. Sanjeev Ghadi (DBT nominee)	Dr. Angshuman Sarkar (Internal Expert)	**Dr. Steffi Soares, Biosafety Officer

**Member absent: Dr. Steffi Soares, Biosafety Officer.

1. The meeting was chaired by the chairman, Prof. G. Raghurama, Director, BITS, Pilani – KK Birla Goa Campus.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd November 2019 were discussed and the committee was apprised of the steps taken on those minutes. The Chairman asked for better resolution of points 3 and 4 of the previous minutes.
3. Four proposals from PIs Prof. Srikanth Mutnuri, Prof. Meenal Kowshik (2) and Dr. Malabika Biswas, which had come to the committee for approval/certification were discussed in the committee. The committee referred to the self-declarations given by the PIs before making the following observations:
 - a. The proposal submitted by Prof. Mutnuri required handling of samples containing possible viral pathogens and other unknown pathogens. The PI mentioned that handling would be done in a BioSafety Level 2 laboratory, which was observed to be not available in the institute. Questions were raised regarding the procurement and pre-processing of the samples. Similar queries were raised about the disposal of the samples and sample source post-handling. Additionally, external members commented that similar work has already been done internationally and within the country, where a BSL2 laboratory was available. This proposal was not approved by the committee.

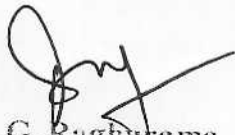
b. Both the proposals submitted by Prof. Meenal were found to be not violating any biosafety guidelines in their proposed methodology. The proposal where animal handling was proposed had been supported with certificate from animal ethics committee of the collaborating institute, and no animal work was shown in BITS. Both these proposals were approved by the committee.

c. The proposal by Dr. Biswas was found to be within biosafety restrictions for only the work proposed in the institute. The part of the work proposed to be undertaken in Goa Medical College was not found to be applicable for the IBSC's approval. The work proposed in BITS was approved by the committee.

4. The committee was updated about the recent developments regarding the infrastructure development in line with the commitment to improve biosafety capabilities of the institute. The Chairman wanted further institutional discussion on the local technicalities of the infrastructural development.

5. The Chairman thanked the members and the next meeting was tentatively scheduled in the latter half of 2020.

Signed by,



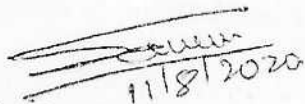
Prof. G. Raghurama



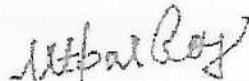
Prof. S. Bhand
Dt. 10.08.2020



Prof. S. Ghadi



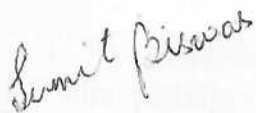
Dr. Samir Damare



Prof. U. Roy



Dr. A. Sarkar



Dr. S. Biswas

Dr. S. Soares (absent for the meeting)