

6th LRAC

Minutes of Meeting of Local Research Advisory Committee-MRU-IGMC Shimla

The 6th Local Research Advisory Committee meeting of MRU-IGMC was held on 22nd July 2021 at 2:00 PM under the Chairmanship of Dr. J.S. Thakur (Chairperson Local-RAC), coordinated from the office of Dr. PC Negi, IGMC Shimla through Zoom app.

Members present voting

Dr. J.S. Thakur (Chairperson Local-RAC)

Dr. Madhu Khullar (Co-Chairperson Local-RAC)

Dr. Surinder Kumar Sodhi (The Principal IGMC Shimla)

Dr. PC Negi (Nodal Officer-cum-member Secretary Local RAC)

Dr. Ashoo Grover (Member ICMR)

Dr. Biman Sakia (Member Local RAC)

Dr. Balbir Singh Verma (Member Local RAC)

Dr. Ramesh Chand (member DHS HP)

Mr. Pranav Negi (ACF IGMC Shimla)

All worthy members were available through Zoom app.

Agenda 1: Welcome address. Dr. P.C. Negi (Nodal Officer MRU-IGMC) welcomed the members of research committee and after obtaining permission from the Chairperson, briefly explained the shared agenda of the meeting.

Agenda 2: Action taken report after 5th LRAC. Dr. Meenakshi Chandel (Research Scientist II, MRU) briefly presents the action taken report on suggestions and decisions taken in the 5th LRAC meeting held on 3rd April 2021. She informed that 5TH LRAC minutes of meeting has been shared with The Secretary (Health) Himachal Pradesh and The Director Health Services Himachal Pradesh and paper publication of completed projects are in progress. Dr. Meenakshi Chandel informed the members about delay in procurement of flowcytometer; however it is in the tendering process.

Agenda 3: Establishing guidelines for funding limits of projects.

Dr. PC Negi asked the members, should MRU have limited number of projects with adequate budget or more number of projects with limited budget? Dr. Madhu Khullar

was of the opinion that research projects should be quality based not number based with adequate sample size. Dr. Ashoo Grover said that research projects must be discussed scientifically with experts about its novelty and benefits to public health and suggested not to compromise scientific value and budget allocation should be case to case on the basis of merit of study. If estimated budget is more than available under contingency head, we can write it to DHR for its approval. Dr JS Thakur stressed to undertake more of implementation research on focussed areas of health priorities of the state. To this Dr. PC Negi (member secretary) responded by stating that research proposals under MRU is aimed at generating knowledge related to NCDs through basic science research utilizing the contractual research staff trained in lab work. The contractual research staffs under MRU are not trained for implementation research as they are trained in basic science research. Further Dr. Ashoo Grover stated that the community related studies involving lab estimation could be undertaken through MRU research facility.

Agenda 4: Approval of estimated budget of project titled “To evaluate the prognostic impact of periprocedural change in hs-CRP and oxidative stress markers in predicting suboptimal coronary perfusion, and short term MACE among patients undergoing PCI in a tertiary hospital based prospective study” by Principal Investigator (PI) Dr. Kunal Mahajan, Assistant Professor, Department of Cardiology, IGMC Shimla.

Comments of the members: The members commented about the justification of taking sample for estimation of oxidative stress immediately after PCI. Dr. Madhu Khullar suggested that the activity of the SOD does not change in short time. Thus sampling immediately after procedure can be avoided. Due to logistic reasons for collecting sample after 6 hours as in the night time the lab would be closed for processing. It was suggested to repeat blood sampling at 24 hours after PCI. Thus proposal needs to be revised to include estimation of markers of oxidative at baseline and at 24 hours after PCI. Dr Madhu Khullar offered her help to share the standardized protocol for estimation of markers of oxidative stress. Dr. JS Thakur suggested to submit the revised protocol as per the members suggestions with revised budget estimation.

Agenda 5: Review of new research proposal titled “A pilot study using Multiplex assays for biomarker (Follistatin, Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), osteopontin, Platelet endothelial cell adhesion molecule (PECAM), Interleukin -6 (IL-6), Tumour necrosis factor (TNF-alpha) and Leptin research and their clinical correlation with colorectal cancer stages and their prognostic role. PI Dr Rashpal Singh, Assistant Professor Oncosurgery, IGMC Shimla.

Comments of the members: Members suggested to revise project title making it more precise and concise. Dr. JS Thakur enquired about the burden of colorectal cancer (CRC) in HP and justification of estimation of multiple markers as prognostic markers, proposed in the study. PI clarified by stating that CRC is among top ten cancers in HP in both male and female as per information obtained from hospital based cancer registry (2019-20) of IGMC Shimla. Total no of cases in the year 2019-20 were 113. Further PI state that the multi biomarker estimation is important to improve the sensitivity and specificity of the extent of disease and its prognostication. P.I. informed the members that there are limited studies in India as well as globally correlating the proposed biomarkers with the extent of disease and outcomes. All members were convinced about the novelty and utility of the proposal and approved for funding of the estimated budget submitted by PI.

Agenda 6: Approval of estimated budget of project titled “Enumeration and characterization of flow-cytometric immunophenotyping of circulating plasma cells and their role in post treatment monitoring (MRD assessment) in patients of Multiple myeloma and other plasma cell disorders in a hilly state of HP”, PI: Dr. Pooja Murgai. Assistant Professor, Pathology Department, IGMC Shimla.

Comments by Members: Dr. Ashoo Grover asked PI about the novelty and utility of the research proposal. She also enquired about the specificity of proposed plasma cell phenotypes in detection of the minimal residual disease (MRD) in patients with multiple myeloma, can these plasma cell phenotypes could also be detected in other cancers? P.I. informed the members about the novelty of the proposed research work by stating the fact that at present, only method available for detection of MRD in multiple myeloma is by examining the bone marrow material obtained through invasive and painful bone marrow aspiration procedure. The novelty of this study lies in the fact that we aim to evaluate the correlation of specific phenotypes of plasma cells with MRD, diagnosed based on bone marrow aspiration. If the study

demonstrates strong correlation between levels of proposed specific plasma cell phenotypes with MRD detected in bone marrow aspiration then it has huge impact in practice pattern in terms of non invasive based detection of MRD in patients with multiple myeloma. The conventional method of detection of MRD has its own limitations. Firstly bone marrow aspiration is an invasive procedure therefore frequent sampling is not feasible in most of the circumstances. Further in bone marrow aspiration hemodilution is most common technical pitfall in MRD analysis leading to false interpretation of the MRD values. Dr. Ashoo Grover enquired is this MRD analysis related to other cancers. Dr. Pooja clarified that this is related to other cancers.

Dr. Biman Saikia said that this study is relevant for current diagnostics. Members advised PI to revise the Title and clearly highlighting the novelty of the project and further reduce the budget of the contingency as items required for bone marrow needling should be provided by hospital or paid by patient by self.

Agenda 7: Developing guidelines for procurement procedures to be adopted for purchase of consumables/reagents

Comments of the members: The member secretary informed the members about the difficulties being encountered in speedy procurement of quality reagents required in the research work. The IGMC is guided by State Industry Department in procurement of consumable items through state rate contract applicable to all the stake holding departments of the state. However the reagents and consumables used in research work are not available in the rate contract list. He enquired from the members (from PGI Chandigarh) what process is being followed in PGI Chandigarh to purchase reagents /consumables? Dr. Biman Saikia informed the members that in PGI the catalog wise rates of reagents from standard houses are frozen for 5 to 7 years after negotiation. The quality of reagents can also be checked beforehand by using the test reagents from other vendors. Then the departmental committee can recommend or reject based on the test performance of the given reagent. Dr. JS Thakur (Chairman) suggested working out for centralized mechanisms for purchase of reagents/consumables for MRU.

Members suggested not to compromise the quality of the consumables/reagents required for research work. Dr. Biman Saikia and Dr. Madhu Khullar said that the most of the kits/reagents required for advance research with sensitivity are not make

in India. Dr. JS Thakur understood that purchasing is a very tedious job. Members suggested constituting The Departmental purchase committee including project investigators for the procurement of the standard quality consumables.

- Dr. Ashoo Grover suggested to revise the project title of each of the projects reviewed. Dr JS Thakur and Dr Ashoo Grover suggested reviewing all the proposals by MRU cell before submitting to LRAC to ensure designing and developing research proposals following standard formats of research protocol as STROBE and CONSORT etc. and suggested to review the each project by research scientist and ensure it should be in scientific format. Research proposal should also include the section on PI's competence to assess his or her ability to execute the proposed research work by citing their publications, research projects handled etc. Dr Ashoo Grover also advised to pull up the resources such as stationery, ethical charges etc. from the host institute.
- Dr. JS Thakur enquired about interest of faculty members of IGMC in research. Dr. PC Negi informed that IGMC has intramural research grant for research projects. Faculty members of IGMC are showing their interest in research work. This year already 15 research projects were reviewed and approved by IGMC research advisory committee for funding under intramural grant. Many of these research projects involve lab work and MRU facilities would be used.
- The chairman suggested to circulate the revised proposals with budgetary estimations through e mail and will be reviewed and status of approval would be conveyed through mail.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair by member secretary

The minutes were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

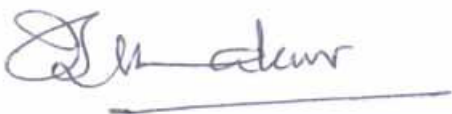
As per member's suggestion, three revised research proposal with budgetary estimation circulated to LRAC members for comments and approval. The Chairman and members approved the following revised projects with their respective estimated budgets through e mail.

Project 1 Titled "Prognostic significance of periprocedural change in the levels of oxidative stress and inflammatory state among patients with acute myocardial infarction undergoing percutaneous coronary intervention in predicting suboptimal

coronary perfusion and adverse in-hospital and short-term outcomes". Budget estimation Rs 4,39,400/-.PI Dr. Kunal Mahajan, Assistant Professor, Department of Cardiology, IGMC Shimla

Project 2 Titled "Multi biomarkers based correlates of extent of colorectal cancer and their prognostic significance; Tertiary care hospital based prospective observational study" Budget estimation 4.6 lakhs. PI Dr. Rashpal Singh, Assistant Professor Oncosurgery, IGMC Shimla

Project 3 Titled "Evaluation of circulating plasma cells by flowcytometer in Multiple myeloma after therapy and testing the utility of new potential alternative gating markers Vs38, CD229 & CD319; tertiary care hospital based prospective observational study" Budget estimation: Rs 7lakhs. PI Dr. Pooja Murgai, Assistant Professor, Pathology Department, IGMC Shimla.



Dr. J.S. Thakur

Prof. School of Public Health. PGIMER Chd-cum Chairperson Local RAC-IGMC SHIMLA

Dr. P.C. Negi

Prof. and Head Department Of Cardiology –cum- Member Secretary-Local-RAC-MRUIGMC SHIMLA