National Bioethics Committee, Pakistan meets in CBEC-SIUT

On June 8, 2015, CBEC will host the meeting of the National Bioethics Committee (NBC), followed by a two day workshop on research and clinical ethics for members of the newly formed Sindh Provincial Bioethics Committee (PBC) and other participants from the province.

Research and clinical ethics workshops for PBC members have already been conducted in all provinces of Pakistan and in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Participants have found these workshops useful in expanding their knowledge of research and clinical ethics.

“Biobanks: A matrix of stakeholders, concerns and policy proposals,”
March 26, 27, 2015, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Dr. Aamir Jafarey was invited to participate in a workshop organized by the University of Copenhagen to discuss the ethical issues of biobanking.

This included discussions on transfer of biological materials such as DNA from developing countries to centres in developed countries, ways of regulating the movement of genetic material, and challenges in obtaining informed consent for research on stored material.

“Akhlaq kay dairay main”
Urdu Ethics Workshop for Schools
April 11, 2015

CBEC organized its first ethics workshop in Urdu for school teachers conducted by Ms. Anika Khan. Attended by twenty-three participants representing different schools of Karachi, the workshop focused on stories and group activities for critical thinking and ethical discussion. The four hour session was very interactive and incorporated material that teachers could use for discussion in classrooms.

PGD and MBE Admissions: Announcement of New Academic Cycle

June 2015 onwards, CBEC invites applications for admission to the new academic cycle of the yearlong PGD (Class of 2016) and two year MBE (Class of 2017). Both academic programs will begin in January 2016. For details, please visit CBEC's website, www.siut.org/bioethics/
Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBMU),
Workshop on Clinical and Research Ethics, Larkana,
February 24-25, 2015

Conducted by Drs. Farhat Moazam and Aamir Jafarey, this workshop was the second in a series of two Clinical and Research Ethics workshops. The first was held in October 2014 for senior faculty of the university whereas the one in February 2015 was for 30 junior and mid-career level faculty representing most of the clinical departments.

My work is to...

Inspired by a wonderful piece of writing by A. Papatya Bukac about her work and life, published in Brevity magazine*, CBEC faculty tried their hands at creative writing, and wrote some lines about their 'work'. A few excerpts are given below:

“My work is to teach bioethics on the morning after the morning on which one hundred and thirty four children are shot to death in their school; to bury the absurdity of doing my work”

“My work is to sow seeds to grow mighty oaks; to hope for rain and sun and favorable winds; to maintain faith that oaks can grow in deserts, and to know that some do not even in the best soil; to accept that others will sit in their shade”

“My work is to create. Create work that doesn't exist. Create ideas and then make them happen…I create doubt. I confuse…I make them doubt, make them question. And then I provide them no answers.”

“My work is to be the nexus, the pivotal point around which the spokes of my little family swing…My work is to draft and write, and write and erase and draft again. My work is to teach.”

“My work is to multitask whereas it is not the fashionable thing anymore. Be a carer, nurturer, advisor, mentor when I also want to be cared (for), nurtured, advised and counselled.”

“My work is to play god. People expect me to know who is going to live and who would succumb today…My work is to put my best efforts to help the dying children.”

“My work is to teach, motivate and be a role model to students and there is no place for an off day…My work is to do a task to the best of my ability, but my ability and audience change each time.”

*http://brevitymag.com/nonfiction/an-address-to-my-fellow-faculty/
Appointments and promotions at CBEC

- Dr. Elizabeth A. Bukusi was appointed Associate Faculty in May, 2015. Dr. Bukusi is Deputy Director (Research and Training) at the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI).

- Ms. Sualeha Shekhani was inducted as Research Assistant in March, 2015. Coming from a social sciences background, Ms. Shekhani's appointment is the first step in developing a formal research unit at CBEC.

- Ms. Mahjabeen Munawar was inducted as Secretary in March, 2015. Prior to this, Ms. Munawar was working at Habib Public School for several years.

- Ms. Michelle Fernandes was promoted to the post of Academic Coordinator in January, 2015.

- Mr. Aamir Shehzad was promoted to the post of IT Officer in January, 2015.