National Bioethics Committee (NBC), Pakistan meeting, Islamabad, September 30, 2015

The National Bioethics Committee, Pakistan (http://nbcpakistan.org.pk/) was constituted in 2014 to enhance bioethics in the country. Its Research Ethics Committee (REC) has the responsibility to review multinationally funded research proposals, and its Healthcare Ethics Committee (HCEC) provides bioethics education in research and clinical medicine in all provinces of Pakistan.

The September meeting included recently elected NBC members, many of whom (pictured above) are graduates of CBEC programs, a matter of pride for the Centre.

Medical Error Workshops in Karachi

Issues related to medical error and negligence have recently been in the forefront in the media. To address these issues, Drs. Nida Bashir (Patel Hospital), and Bushra Shirazi and Aamir Jafarey (CBEC) have been conducting a series of workshops on medical error and negligence. The first was held on March 11, 2015 for Aga Khan University (AKU) students enrolled in the Masters program in nursing. Similar workshops were undertaken at Ziauddin University for physicians, administrators and nursing staff in May, for the medical and nursing staff of Tabba Heart Hospital, Karachi in September, followed by another at AKU as component of the Department of Surgery Annual Conference in November. Another workshop is planned on December 9 during the International SIUT Conference for attending physicians.

NBC Bioethics Workshop and a Bioethics Seminar, in Lahore, August 23-24, 2015

As part of the ongoing efforts of the National Bioethics Committee (NBC, Pakistan) to raise national capacity in bioethics, a workshop was organized for members of the Punjab Provincial Bioethics Committee (PBC). The workshop was held in Lahore at the Office of the Director General Health, Punjab and was attended by PBC members as well as faculty of teaching institutions.

The workshop, conducted by Dr. Farhat Moazam and Dr. Aamir Jafarey was facilitated by Dr. Natasha Anwar, (member, Punjab PBC), and Dr. Farkhanda Ghafoor, (member, NBC and Punjab PBC).
While in Lahore, CBEC faculty was invited by its alumnus, Dr. Farkhanda Ghafoor, to conduct a half day symposium on bioethics at the Shaikh Zayed Hospital (SZH). The event was inaugurated by Prof. Farrukh Iqbal, Chair and Dean, Shaikh Zayed Hospital. The symposium attracted over 150 participants, consisting of consultants, residents, hospital staff and medical students. Dr. Ghafoor, secretary of the ERC of SZH, also invited members of the committee to the symposium.

Launch of KBG Handbook
“Understanding Medical Error”
September 2, 2015

The Karachi Bioethics Group (KBG) was conceived in 2004 and consists of a group of healthcare related professionals from the city who meet every other month. These meetings provide a forum for members to discuss different ethical issues that arise in the country during biomedical research and clinical practices. It also provides an opportunity for medical students and postgraduate trainees to become familiar with such issues. The KBG also periodically undertakes initiatives for public awareness and education.

Previously, KBG has published a booklet to guide healthcare professionals towards ethical interaction with the pharmaceutical industry entitled “Institutional Ethical Guidelines for Physician Pharmaceutical Industry Interaction.” This year KBG produced a handbook, “Understanding Medical Error,” as an aid for practicing physicians. The handbook also suggests ways of identifying system flaws that lead to medical error and makes recommendations for improvement. It is freely available on the KBG website:

http://karachibioethicsgroup.org/

The handbook on medical error was launched on September 2, 2015, at Patel Hospital which is hosting KBG meetings for the year 2015. The event was very well attended and drew healthcare professionals as well as people from varied backgrounds, from different institutions in the city.

CBEC Symposium: “Bioethics goes to school,” Karachi
September 19, 2015

In September 2015, CBEC organised a symposium “Bioethics goes to school” building upon activities the Centre is already doing with schools through workshops for teachers and high school students. The one day event brought together scholars, teachers, and school and college
students. An audience of more than three hundred people listened to scholarly talks on ethics in education and watched ethics related skits and debates by students. The focus of the day was on showing that ethics and opportunities for critical thinking can be incorporated across school curricula through many modalities such as research, drama and debate, and by creating environments that encourage respect and inclusivity. The response generated by the symposium indicates growing interest in Pakistan to incorporate ethics into educational systems beyond healthcare.

January 11-23, 2015: New academic year begins at CBEC

CBEC’s new academic cycle for its Master in Bioethics (MBE) and Postgraduate Diploma in Biomedical Ethics (PGD) begins in January 2016. The incoming students include healthcare related professionals, educationists and researchers from Pakistan as well as from Kenya.

MBE, Class of 2017

Afshan Bandeali
Teacher & Administrator
TLT, Karachi

Nazli Hossain
Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
DUHS, Karachi

Caroline Kithinji
Researcher
KEMRI, Nairobi

Ali Lanewala
Nephrologist
SIUT, Karachi

PGD, Class of 2016

Saleha Anwar
Radiologist
LNMC, Karachi

Aruna Dawani
General Surgeon
ZU, Karachi
Madiha Farhan
Nurse
Patel Hospital, Karachi

Muhammad Fayyaz
Physician
Pakistan Army, DG Khan

Abeer Salim Habib
Dentist & Administrator
Patel Hospital, Karachi

Qudsia Hassan
Forensic Physician
ZU, Karachi

Yasmeen Jumani
Educationist
ITREB, Karachi

M. Moin Khan
Dentist
HCMD, Karachi

Haron Mongare
Administrator
KEMRI, Nairobi

Saima Naz Moshin
Researcher
PMRC, Lahore

Stephen Ombok Muhudhia
Physician
KEMRI, Nairobi

Fasiha Sohail
Physician
ZU, Karachi