

**Department of Biochemical Engineering & Biotechnology**  
**Minutes of DRC Meeting No. 02/2012-13**

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1<sup>st</sup> April, 2013

The second meeting of the Departmental Research Committee (DRC) for the session 2012-2013 was held on Feb 26, 2013 at 4 pm in the Committee Room of the Department. The following members were present:

Prof. Prashant Mishra (Chairperson)  
Prof. V. S. Bisaria  
Prof. Saroj Mishra  
Prof. A.K. Srivastava  
Prof. T. R. Sreekrishnan  
Dr. Ritu Kulshreshtha  
Dr. Shilpi Sharma  
Dr. Atul Narang (Convener)

**1. Confirmation of minutes of DRC meeting No 1/2012-13 and special DRC meeting held in January 2, 2013**

The minutes of Meeting No. 1/2012-2013 held on November 29, 2012, and the special DRC meeting held on January 2, 2012, were confirmed as circulated.

**2. Matters arising out of the minutes**

There were no matters arising out of the above minutes.

**3. To discuss new PhD and MS projects offered by faculty**

The chairperson informed that 10 new Ph.D. proposals, 1 proposal for Ph.D./ M.S. (R) and 7 proposals for M.S.(R) were received. All the proposals were circulated to DRC members and were discussed. The committee approved all the projects. However, Committee discussed the following projects and due to involvement of work with pathogenic strains recommended to induct a co-PI with access to a BSL-2 and BSL-3 facilities:

1. Direct detection of enteric fever in blood (Ph.D.)
2. Purification of Flagellin from *Salmonella enteritidis* and study its flexural rigidity (M.S. (R))

**4. A project proposal titled 'Chromosome dynamics in *Rhodococcus erythropolis* PR4' submitted by Dr Preeti Srivastava for funding from DST**

The DST project proposal titled 'Chromosome dynamics in *Rhodococcus erythropolis* PR4' submitted by Dr Preeti Srivastava was discussed. The Committee approved the proposal and authorised the Chairman to forward the same to Dean, IRD, for onward transmission to the funding agency.

**5. A project proposal titled 'Biocatalytic viscosity reduction and composition improvement of heavy petroleum' submitted by Dr Preeti Srivastava for funding from DBT**

A project proposal titled 'Biocatalytic viscosity reduction and composition improvement of heavy petroleum' submitted by Dr Preeti Srivastava was discussed. The Committee approved the proposal and authorised the Chairman to forward the same to Dean, IRD, for onward transmission to the funding agency.

**6. A project proposal titled 'Unraveling the role of microRNAs in hypoxia: re-oxygenation biology' submitted by Dr Ritu Kulshreshtha for funding from ICMR**

A project proposal titled 'Unraveling the role of microRNAs in hypoxia: re-oxygenation biology' submitted by Dr Ritu Kulshreshtha was discussed. The Committee approved the proposal and authorised the Chairman to forward the same to Dean, IRD, for onward transmission to the funding agency.

**7. A note received from Dr D. Sundar for approval of PhD project titled 'Understanding the molecular mechanism of action of metabolites from Ashwagandha' for Mr Shashank P. Katiyar, a part-time Ph.D. student working with him**

The committee discussed and allotted the approved PhD project titled 'Understanding the molecular mechanism of action of metabolites from Ashwagandha' for Mr Shashank P. Katiyar, a part-time Ph.D. student working with Dr D. Sundar.

**7. Constitution of SRC for Ms Khushboo Rastogi**

The committee approved the constitution of the SRC for Ms Khushboo Rastogi as follows:

Prof. Prashant Mishra (Chairperson)  
Prof. C.S. Dey (External Expert)  
Dr. Preeti Srivastava (Departmental Expert)  
Dr. E. Ravikrishnan (Supervisor)  
Prof. Sunil Nath (Supervisor)

**8. Plan of Work for Ph.D. thesis titled 'Bistability in the lac operon' submitted by Ms Shilpi Jain**

The plan of work for Ph.D. thesis titled 'Bistability in the lac operon' submitted by Ms Shilpi Jain was discussed and based on the recommendation of SRC it was approved.

**9. Requests received for extension of registration for Ms. Jyoti Batra, Ms. Swati Ojha, and Ms.Nivedita Patra and for current semester**

Based on the recommendations of respective SRCs, the committee approved extension of registration for Ms. Jyoti Batra, Ms. Swati Ojha, and Ms.Nivedita Patra.

The committee also discussed a note received for the extension of fellowship for Ms. Nivedita Patra and approved.

**10. Project allotment to M.Tech. Students (Mr. Vikrant Vatsal, Mr. Ashwin Shrikumar and Mr. Samrat Bahadur Patel)**

The committee discussed and recommended that Mr Vikrant Vatsal and Mr Ashwin Kumar will do their MTP under the guidance of Prof P K Roychoudhary, and Mr Samrat Bahadur will do his MTP under the guidance of Dr E. Ravikrishnan

**11. A note received from Ms. Shweta Kamthan for grant of partial assistance for presenting her paper at Singapore from IIT Delhi.**

A note received from Ms. Shweta Kamthan for a grant of partial assistance for presenting her paper at Singapore from IIT Delhi was discussed and the committee ratified the approval of Ms. Shweta Kamthan's request for a grant of partial assistance.

**12. A Project Proposal entitled "Synthetic biology to produce fungible biofuels from lignocellulosic sugars" submitted by Prf. V.S. Bisaria for funding from BBSRC (UK) and DBT (India)**

The BBSRC-DBT project proposal titled 'Synthetic biology to produce fungible biofuels from lignocellulosic sugars' submitted by Prof V S Bisaria which was approved earlier was discussed and ratified.

**13. A Project Proposal titled 'A Zero-discharge process for process for pulp and paper industry wastewater management' submitted by Prof.G.P. Agarwal and Prof. T.R.Sreekrishnan.**

The project proposal titled 'A Zero-discharge process for process for pulp and paper industry wastewater management' submitted by Profs G. P. Agarwal and T. R. Sreekrishnan which was approved earlier was discussed and ratified.

**14. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.**

- a. The committee discussed and approved the synopsis of Ph.D. thesis entitled 'Microbial fuel cell coupled anaerobic wastewater treatment' submitted by Mr. Surajbhan Sevda. The Committee also discussed and approved the panel of Examiners and authorized the Chairman to forward the same to Dean (Academics).
- b. The committee approved extension of Mr Muthu Mareeswaran's Institute Fellowship till June, 2013.
- c. The committee approved the DBT-sponsored visit of Mr Umesh Mishra (NIT, Agartala). During this visit, he will be mentored by Profs G P Agarwal and T R Sreekrishnan.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

*Atul Narang.*

Atul Narang  
Convener, DRC