

Department of Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology
Departmental Research Committee Meeting Notice
(DRC-07/2021-2022)

2 March, 2022

The Seventh meeting of the *Departmental Research Committee* for the academic session 2021-2022 was held on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 3:00 pm via Microsoft Teams (DRC channel).

The following members were present:

Prof. Ritu Kulshreshtha (Chairperson)

Prof. D. Sundar

Prof. T.R. Sreekrishnan

Prof. K. J. Mukherjee

Prof. Preeti Srivastava

Prof. Ishaan Gupta

1. Confirmation of the minutes of 6th meeting of the DRC for the session 2021-2022 held on 6 January, 2021.

The minutes were confirmed as circulated

2. To report the matters arising from the minutes of Meeting No. 06/2021-2022.

The committee observed that due to widespread cheating during online exams all the subsequent exams/progress presentations will be conducted offline unless instructed otherwise by the Institute. Strict guidelines for the same will be circulated by the Head's Office to all the PhD/MSR students.

3. Plan of Work of Mr. Arjun Rastogi (2019BEZ8183) for his thesis titled "Nanofiltration Mediated Fermentation of Lignocellulosic Hydrolysate Using Wild Type Yeast".

Plan of work of Mr. Arjun Rastogi (2019BEZ8183) was approved based on the recommendation by his SRC. The date for Paper 2 of written comprehensive examination was noted as 15 March 2021, and that of oral comprehensive examination was 12 January 2022.

4. Synopsis Approval of PhD and MSR students

a) Synopsis of PhD thesis of Mr. Anirban Jana (2016BEZ8004), PhD student on the topic "Elucidation of the role of neuronal differentiation factors belonging to the NeuroD family in glioblastoma".

The Committee discussed and approved the synopsis submitted by the Ph.D. student Mr. Anirban Jana. The Committee also approved the panel of Examiners and authorized the Chairperson to forward the same to Dean (Academics).

The committee also approved the change in title of his PhD thesis from "Elucidation of the Role of Neural Differentiation Factors in Glioblastoma" to "Elucidation of the role of neuronal differentiation factors belonging to the NeuroD family in glioblastoma" as per recommendations of his SRC.

(Action: 1 Thesis supervisor to send the following documents to the DRC Chairperson: (a) Filled-in form for Ph.D. synopsis submission & Appointment of Examiners (b) 2 hard copies

of the Synopsis and (c) soft copy of the Synopsis by email) (Action 2: Upon receipt of the above documents, Chairperson DRC to forward it to Dean-Academics)

b) Synopsis of MSR thesis of Mr. Sourabh Chavan (2019BEY7514), MSR student on the topic “Investigating the role of enzymes for asphaltene biotransformation”

The Committee discussed and approved the synopsis submitted by the MSR student Mr. Sourabh Chavan (2019BEY7514). The Committee also approved the panel of Examiners and authorized the Chairperson to forward the same to Dean (Academics).

The committee also approved the change in title of his MSR thesis from “Cloning and expression of enzymes for asphaltene biotransformation” to “Investigating the role of enzymes for asphaltene biotransformation” as per recommendations of his SRC.

(Action: 1 Thesis supervisor to send the following documents to the DRC Chairperson: (a) Filled-in form for MSR synopsis submission & Appointment of Examiners (b) 2 hard copies of the Synopsis and (c) soft copy of the Synopsis by email) (Action 2: Upon receipt of the above documents, Chairperson DRC to forward it to Dean-Academics)

5. Reconstitution of SRC of PhD students- Mr. Akshay Ravindra Lohakare and Ms. Subhashree Pagal

The committee approved the request received from Prof. Atul Narang to replace the internal experts (Prof. Ishaan Gupta and Prof. Ashish Misra on the SRCs of PhD students- Mr. Akshay Lohakare and Ms. Subhashree Pagal, respectively) with Prof. K.J. Mukherjee whose area of research aligns better with the student’s PhD topic. Prof. KJ Mukherjee gave his consent for the same.

Name and entry no of student	Supervisor	Chairperson	New Internal Expert	External Expert
Akshay Ravindra Lohakare (bez208511)	Prof. Atul Narang	Prof. Preeti Srivastava	Prof. KJ Mukherjee	Dr. Y. Khasa (Delhi Univ.)
Subhashree Pagal (bez208524)	Prof. Atul Narang	Prof. Preeti Srivastava	Prof. KJ Mukherjee	Dr. Y. Khasa (Delhi Univ.)

6. To receive and ratify the Minutes of the Standing Selection Committee (SSC) for Postdoctoral Fellow held to screen applications received during recruitment cycle 1st July 2021 to 31st December 2021.

The minutes of the SSC that scrutinized the applications received for Postdoctoral Fellowship received during the period July 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021 was ratified by the Departmental Research Committee. The final presentation and interview before the SSC is to be organized for the shortlisted candidates.

7. Discuss modalities to conduct end-semester MTech Project presentations

The committee decided that MTech Project viva voce will be conducted offline. The thesis submission date will be in the last week of May, 2022 and the viva-voce will be conducted in the first week of June, 2022 in presence of external examiner apart from Departmental Committee.

8. Result of Paper I of written comprehensive exam conducted on 12 Feb, 2022.

Mr. Nirmal Singh Mahar (BEZ207518) was declared to have passed Paper 1 of Ph.D. comprehensive examination held on 12th Feb 2022.

To report the matters for ratification by the DRC

(a) Project proposals submitted by faculty members

S. No	Project Name	Investigator	Funding Agency
1	Oral microbiome as a predictor of eventual progressive liver diseases	Prof. Ishaan Gupta	MFIRP
2	Identification of check point and Licensing proteins which link DNA Replication and cell division in Rhodococcus erythropolis PR4	Prof. Preeti Srivastava	SERB
3	Microbiome-based strategy for mitigation of drought stress: a physical answer to a biological observation	Prof. Shilpi Sharma (PI) Dr Nimrod Schwartz	IITD-HUJI MFIRP
4	Towards development of novel therapeutic strategies for Glioblastoma: High throughput screening with miRNA inhibitor library and analysis of functional consequences in a 3D spheroid model of precancerous stem cells	Dr. Shraddha Chakraborty (Prof. Ritu Kulshreshtha-Mentor)	DBT Ramalingaswami Fellowship

The above projects were circulated to members, since no comments were received the projects were forwarded to concerned authorities, and the item was ratified.

b) Request received from Mr. Shubham Dubey (2017BEZ7534), a PhD student (Institute Assistantship) from Prof. Shilpi Sharma's lab to attend a workshop on metagenomics analysis, which is being organized by Arraygen (a Pune based company) and avail the reimbursement of the registration fees from the contingency grant. The application was recommended by the Supervisor followed by the DRC chair and forwarded by the departmental office for processing to the Academics section.

c). Request received from Shefali Singh (2016BEZ8558) for extended financial support was approved by the Dean, Academics. She was granted Institute Assistantship @Rs15000/pm from 2 Jan, 2022 to 1 March, 2022 for a maximum of 2 months after completion of 5 years.

d). Ms. Sneha Kumari (2017BEZ8289) requested leave for 3 weeks from 03-02-2022 to 24-02-2022 for her marriage scheduled on 09.02-2022. Her request was approved and forwarded by the Head to the Academics section.

e). Application for CSIR Travel Grant by Swati Varshney (2016BEZ8325), PhD student under Dr. Shilpi Sharma, to present her poster in a conference (Annual Conference, 2022, Belfast, UK) scheduled from 4 April, 2022 -7 April, 2022 was forwarded by HoD to the PG section for further processing.

Distribution

All Faculty (by email)

Ritu Kulshreshtha
DRC Chairperson