

**Department of Biochemical Engineering and Biotechnology**  
**Departmental Research Committee Minutes**  
(DRC-1/2023-24)

21 Sep 2023

The first meeting of the Departmental Research Committee for the academic session 2023-24 was held on 19 Sep 2023 in the DBEB Committee Room at 4 pm.

**The following members were present:**

Prof. Prashant Mishra (Chairperson)  
Prof. Ritu Kulshreshtha  
Prof. Preeti Srivastava  
Prof. Ravikrishnan Elangovan  
Prof. Shilpi Sharma  
Prof. Anjan Roy  
Prof. Lucinda Elizabeth Doyle (Convenor)

**Agenda Items**

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 6th meeting of the DRC for the session 2022-23 held on 17 July 2023 and Special DRC-1/2023-2024 held on 10 Aug 2023.  
The minutes were confirmed as circulated.
2. Matters arising from the minutes of Meeting No. 6/2022-23 and Special DRC-1/2023-2024.  
None.
3. Synopsis of students:
  - a. The Committee discussed and based on the recommendation of SRC, approved the synopsis of the MSR thesis with the title "Overcoming the glucose-mediated repression of the galactose regulon system of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*" submitted by Itube Hegui (2021BEY7567) (Supervisor: Prof. Atul Narang). The Committee also approved the panel of Examiners and authorised the Chairperson to forward the same to Dean (Academics).
  - b. The Committee discussed and based on the recommendation of SRC, approved the synopsis of the PhD thesis with the title "Modeling and validation of growth and ethanol production in continuous cultures of *Scheffersomyces (Pichia stipitis)*" submitted by Biju Jacob (2016BEZ8335) (Supervisor: Prof. Atul Narang). The Committee also approved the panel of Examiners and authorised the Chairperson to forward the same to Dean (Academics).
  - c. The Committee discussed and based on the recommendation of SRC, approved the synopsis of the MSR thesis with the title "Catabolite repression in batch

cultures of *Escherichia coli* growing on a mixture of glucose and lactose” submitted by Rhythm Sardana (2020BEY7519) (Supervisor: Prof. Atul Narang). The Committee also approved the panel of Examiners and authorised the Chairperson to forward the same to Dean (Academics).

- d. The Committee discussed and based on the recommendation of SRC, approved the synopsis of the PhD thesis with the title “Production & characterisation of medical-grade biopolymers submitted by Navodit Kumar Singh (2016BEZ8009) (Supervisor: Prof. T.R. Sreekrishnan and Prof. A.K. Srivastava). The Committee also approved the panel of Examiners and authorised the Chairperson to forward the same to Dean (Academics).

#### 4. Student requests:

- a. Request of Surabhi Mishra (2019BEZ8189) to avail RSTA award to attend 2023 Conference on Water and Wastewater Management, Australia, 3-8 Dec 2023 and request for Ex-India leave from 1-10 Dec 2023 for the same. (Supervisor: Prof. ZSA).

The matter was discussed and the Committee approved the request.

- b. Request of Salila Pradhan (2020BEZ8522) to apply for RETA award.

The matter was discussed and the Committee approved the request.

- c. Request of Monika Luthra (2020BEZ8518) to avail RSTA award to attend AP-ISMET, South Korea ,26-28 July 2023, and request for Ex-India leave from 24 Jul-1 Aug 2023 for the same. (Supervisor: Prof. ZSA).

The matter was discussed and the Committee approved the request.

- d. Request of Aratrika Ghosh (2020BEZ8512) for Ex-India leave 1 Oct 2023-30 Sep 2024 (Supervisor: Prof. TRS and Prof. RJ).

The matter was discussed and the Committee approved the request.

- e. Request of Mahenaz Haneef (2020BEZ0517) for Ex-India leave 25 Sep-4 Oct 2023 (Supervisor: Prof. ZSA)

The matter was discussed and the Committee approved the request.

- f. Request of Navodit Kumar Singh (2016BEZ8009), Priyanka Dubey (2017BEZ8285), Deepchandra Joshi (2018BEZ8240) and Partha Mondal (2018BEZ8438) to take part in Office of Career Services placement session.

The matter was discussed and the Committee approved the request.

#### 5. PhD resignations

The resignation letter received from Subhashree Pagal (2020BEZ8524) was discussed and ratified.

In view of recent PhD resignations, SRC Chairpersons are encouraged to maintain rigorous grading standards to prevent potential issues and resignations among PhD students due to research challenges.

6. Comprehensive Part 1 Results

The following students appeared for Comprehensive Part 1 examination held on 21 and 23 Aug 2023:

Triveni Shelke (2022BEZ8352)  
Chudamani Chandrakanta (2022BEZ8353)  
Kshitij Kathait (2022BEZ8358)  
Shriya Grover (2022BEZ8359)  
Riya Rani (2022BEZ8360)

Their performance was discussed and all students were deemed to have passed and may now appear for Comprehensive Part 2.

7. Discussion of Distinction in Doctoral Research award nomination

The nominations of the following students were received and discussed: Swati Varshney (2016BEZ8325), Arif Nissar Zargar (2016BEZ7504), Dhvani Sandip Vora (2017BEZ8293), Navaneethan Radhakrishnan (2017BEZ8438), Vipul Kumar (2018BEZ7509), Yogesh Kalakoti (2018BEZ7512)

Based on quality and quantity of publications, the Committee recommended the nomination of the following students to be forwarded:

Swati Varshney (2016BEZ8325)  
Arif Nissar Zargar (2016BEZ7504)  
Vipul Kumar (2018BEZ7509)  
Yogesh Kalakoti (2018BEZ7512)

8. Project proposals submitted by faculty members.

S. No.	Project Name	Investigator	Funding Agency/Scheme
1.	Lignin based Facile Synthesis of Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles for the Control of Bacterial Leaf Blight of Rice to Assist Sustainable Agriculture	Prof. Prashant Mishra, (Mentor of Dr. Shatabdi Paul)	SERB NPDF
2.	Characterising the tumour immune microenvironment	Prof. Ishaan Gupta (co-PI), Dr. Prabhat	ICMR

	in responders and non-responders to immunotherapy in non-small cell lung cancer using spatial transcriptomics	Malik	
3.	Process development for utilisation of industrial effluents for integrated algal biorefinery for production of biofuels and value-added co-products	Prof. Shaikh Ziauddin Ahammad (Mentor of Dr. Lakhan Kumar)	SERB NPDF
4.	Functionalized Porous Organic Polymers for Clean Water (PoreClean)	Prof. Shaikh Ziauddin Ahammad (Mentor of Dr. Suhail Ayoub Khan)	SERB NPDF
5.	Validation and commercialization of deployable nucleic acid extraction system (Pure NXT) for bacterial infections	Prof. Ravikrishnan Elangovan and Prof. Vivekanandan P	SERB
6.	Development of novel metabolite-based bioformulations for combating multiple stresses in arable land	Prof. Shilpi Sharma and Dr. Y.S. Shivay (ICAR-IARI)	ICFFTR

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

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



Lucinda E. Doyle  
DRC Convenor