

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING – RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

14 – 01 – 2023

Prin. Dr. Ashok Wadia

Dr. Sangeeta Parab

Prin. Dr. Rajendra Shinde

Dr. Vijay Mendulkar

Dr. Annamma Anil

Dr. Rajiv Desai

Dr. Anuja Jairam (Could not join due to personal commitment)

Dr. Archana Mishra

Dr. Seema Sharma

Dr. Rakhi Sharma

Dr. Sreela Dasgupta

Dr. Sangeeta Godbole

Dr. Devangi Chachad

The meeting started with Dr. Sangeeta parab inviting Principal Dr. Ashok Wadia to give his opening remarks. Dr. Wadia greeted all the panel members and wished the students. Dr. Parab then introduced the panel members.

Ms. Dipanwita Ghosal, registered student under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Godbole, presented her Ph.D. work on Phytochemical and pharmacological screening of *Ixora pavetta* Andr., *Ixora barbata* Roxb. ex Sm., *Ixora javanica* (Blume) DC. and *Ixora undulata* Roxb. Her work was appreciated by all the panel members.

Ms. Nandini Desai, registered Ph.D. student under the supervision of Dr. Devangi Chachad, presented her work titled as “Metabolomics of Foliar Endophytic Fungi from Selected Medicinal Plants”. She presented her work done in the last six months which mainly concentrated on isolation, identification and extraction of Fungi from selected plants. She was advised by Dr. Annamma to concentrate on one of the pathways for synthesis of secondary metabolites for further study. She also advised Nandini to include enzyme assays to which Nandini responded saying that is already included but as this is the report for last six months, she did not include it in this report.

Ms. Pooja Yadav, a student who is going to register under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Godbole, presented her topic titled as “Preparation of Biopesticide (Insecticide) using multiple plants in combination – An innovative approach.” Dr. Annamma and Dr. Rajiv Desai, both advised her to firstly narrow down the topic with respect to the application of the project. She was also advised to define the organism to be targeted. Prof. Dr. Mendulkar also suggested that her topic needs to be focused and narrowed down.

Ms. Sruthi Pillai, another student who is going to register under Dr. Sangeeta Godbole for her Doctoral research, presented her topic. Her selected title was "Stimulation and extraction of antioxidants from important microalgae and optimization of their cellular parameters". Dr. Annamma and Dr. Rajiv Desai, advised her to narrow down her project. Dr. Annamma asked her about the cultivation of microalgae. Sruthi responded that they will be making a photo-bio-reacter in which they will cultivate the selected micro algae for harvesting carotenoids for pharmacological use.

Mr. Mayuresh Patil, yet another student to be registered under the guidance of Dr. Sangeeta Godbole, presented his topic titled as “Studies on Phytoconstituent content and Pharmacological screening of *Trichosanthes bracteata* (Lam.) and evaluation of its possible Biopesticidal Application”. Dr. Annamma suggested that he should refer to phytochemical studies done on allied species. That will help to judge the possible phytochemicals in the said plant. Dr. Rajiv Desai said that the topic was very vast and required reconsideration with more focused and goal-oriented project. Dr. Mendulkar asked Where will the efficacy trial or the pesticide potential will be tested to which Mayuresh answered that they are planning to approach Konkan Krishi Vidhyapeeth, Dapoli.

Ms. Saloni Kothari presented her topic on “Formulation and Standardization of an acaricide from Iron weed and Worm bush”. She will be registering under the guidance of Dr. Devangi Chachad. Dr. Annamma advised her to check for the work done in this domain and also check for patents as a lot of work is being done recently. She was also advised to use synthetic tools to ensure bioavailability and enhance the active metabolites. Dr. Mendulkar questioned about the status of commercial cultivation of the said plants. Saloni responded that one the plant is cultivated commercially, the other plant is a wild plant. He also suggested to check if Plant Tissue Culture can be carried out for the plants to ensure their availability for the commercial production of the formulation. Dr. Rajiv Desai commented that the topic is very vast and needs to be narrowed down.

Ms. Ruqayya Manasawala, another student working under the guidance of Dr. Devangi Chachad, presented her topic on “Standardization of UV protective formulation using flavonoid rich Leguminous flowers”. All the panel members appreciated her topic.

The students were then requested to leave the meet. Dr. Sangeeta Parab requested the panel members to give their suggestions to improve the quality of research in the institute. Dr. Annamma suggested to have a screening committee before the candidates facing the RAC. Dr. Rajiv Desai said that selection of topic is very important for their goal with respect to industry or education in India and abroad. Publication is extremely important and quality of research needs to scale up. Prof. Mendulkar suggested that focus is required on specific issues, target of work etc. Students have to be motivated for publishing their work. The instruments if available in the institute, should be made available for the students.