

## Minutes of the webinar meeting of AHRER

**Date:** 24.06.2020

**Venue:** Google Meet

**Time:** 07.00 PM-08.00 PM

### Presiding members

Name	Specialty	Location
Prof. Rajesh Sharan	Biochemistry	Shillong
Prof. Dr. Nimesh Desai	Psychiatry	Delhi
Dr. Vikas Jain	Pediatrics	Indore
Mr. Samrat Choudhery	President, INNCO	Mumbai
Dr. Chakrapani Chatla	Public Health	Hyderabad
Dr. Sree T. Sucharitha	Public Health	Chennai

The meeting of Association for Harm reduction Education & Research (AHRER) was convened on 24.06.2020 at **-7.00 PM-08.00 PM on web portal of Google Meet**. The members discussed the following issues:

1. **Review of May minutes:** A very brief review of the previous month minutes was done by Dr. Sre and invited Prof. Sharan to share ideas about sources of funding.
2. **Presentation by Prof. Sharan: Funding and Regulatory Compliance**
  1. Regulatory Compliance-AHRER should maintain 100 percent compliance with regulatory guidelines in its application for funding.
  2. Fund raising-aimed through membership fees, personal donations, philanthropy contributions, IT deductions through organizations (Obtain Section12-A/88-A certificates) etc.
  3. AHRER can apply for funding through research grant applications to ICMR/MOHFW/Ministry of Home Affairs etc
3. **Presentation by Dr. Desai: Conflict of Interest**
  1. Pharmaceutical companies and single product promotion (Pfizer, Varenicline) may not be considered at this point of time.
  2. Tobacco Industry funded Foundations or CSR initiatives and their funding source/scoping of work at the level of the organization and individual capacity with complete independent autonomy and non-influence in the work is a complex issue which is parked for further in-depth discussions at a later meeting.
  3. 3-Prong-strategy-Funding sources:
    - i. Non-tobacco industry-CSR-to be leveraged.
    - ii. BIG MONEY-Premji Foundation, Tata Trust, Mahindra Foundation (Dr. Vikas Jain) to be leveraged.
    - iii. Nobel-Laureate-Kailash Satyarthi (Regranting Organizations)-Explore: Harm reduction in Children and Youth to be explored personally.

4. Dr. Vikas highlighted the conflict of interest involved in studies related to ENDS which might have remote connections to industry funding and thus might be discredited.
5. Mr. Samrat shared the extreme limitations involved in the current THR funding landscape and impressed on the importance of continuing the global collective work through partnerships with multiple stakeholders.
6. **Recap and Closure:** After a quick recap by Dr. Sre, all members thanked our mentors Prof. Sharan and Dr. Desai for a stimulating discussion tonight and requested to guide us to follow-up the funding sources mentioned in the call.

\*The minutes were drafted by Dr. Sree T. Sucharitha, AHRER

#### Suggestions and contribution to specific items discussed during the call

Item	Suggestions	Contributions
<b>Membership Expansion</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop membership documents/process</li> <li>2. Free membership would be ideal for 3-6 months at least</li> <li>3. All members can recommend AHRER to their peers and include them in future meetings and discussions.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Samrat to guide or provide insights</li> <li>2. Dr. Vikas Jain will be in-charge and can lead this process.</li> </ol>
<b>Follow-up on Nobel Laureate Regranting Organizations Idea</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dr. Sre will follow-up with Dr. Desai</li> </ol>	Dr. Sre will send AHRER documents to Dr. Desai
<b>AHRER-Research Topics</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 3T's: Tobacco Tuberculosis and THR</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any funding opportunities and grant application resources are to be shared to get research funds.</li> <li>2. We obtained IEC approval.</li> </ol>

**Next AHRER meeting proposed on: July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7-8 PM**