

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the following individuals who helped with various activities of the journal in the past 12 months.

- ABRAHAM OC, *Vellore, India*
ACHARYA S, *New Delhi, India*
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 VISARIA L, *Ahmedabad, India*
 VISWABANDYA A, *Vellore, India*

We are also grateful to members of the Editorial Board and Working Committee of the journal as well as our Editorial and Production Consultants and Printers for their continued help and support.

—Editors

India's first online e-forum for Ethics Committees launched

With the rising number of research projects being conducted in India, Institutional Ethics Committees (IECs) have been set up in various institutions. Research into the functioning of the committees has revealed that there is a need for accreditation and experiential sharing within the committees for them to be able to function better.

India's first online e-forum for IECs has been recently launched after a workshop for ethics committees conducted in May 2010 in Pune. This e-forum is called IEC-Exchange and is hosted on googlegroups (<http://groups.google.com/group/iec-exchange>)

This group is specifically targeted at IEC members, and those interested in the functioning of IECs in India.

IEC-Exchange serves as a discussion forum for ethics committees in India to exchange experiences, network and identify solutions for commonly encountered problems or concerns in the functioning of ethics committees. This group is moderated and membership requests need to be referred by existing members or sent to the moderator (dranantbhan@gmail.com) directly with a note explaining the reason for interest in joining the forum and institutional affiliation (if applicable).

IEC-Exchange is affiliated with the Forum for Ethics Review Committees in India (FERCI).

(Information provided by moderator of the online e-forum, Dr Anant Bhan)