**Dear Editor-in-Chief:**[**Amar Jesani**](http://ijme.in/editor/)

I am submitting a manuscript for consideration of publication in **Indian Journal of Medical Ethics**. The manuscript is entitled,

**“Research Ethics Committees in Lebanon: Current Status and Challenges”**

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Abstract and novelty of the research:

Conduct of research ethics is a critical issue in the scientific community. In order to assure that the research specially the clinical trials, research ethics committees or institutional research boards were structured within most of the research-related organizations. The aim of the current study was to survey the ministry of health approved research ethics committees in Lebanon with the purpose to identify their current structure, processing and functionality. In addition, to address the limitations and constrains facing the committees. A survey-based study was conducted to identify committees’ membership requirements, level of ethics knowledge, workload, and perceived challenges. Descriptive statistical analysis was performed to assess the obtained data.

In Lebanon, Ministry of Health accredited eighteen research ethics committees; most `61.11% as eleven committees participated. The participating committees have standard operating procedures. The physicians were the most frequent member-background with the eleven committees while philosopher wasn’t presented. Mainly the committees held their meetings on monthly base. Almost eighty percent of the committee’s members had knowledge or formal training on conduct of research ethics. Moreover, physical resources such as meeting room and computers, practically, the committees use their organizations ones with a working budget. Regarding, the various challenges facing the committees to process their duties efficiently, the limitation of the national research ethics standards and lack of ethics experts, the lack of approved research proposal oversight, deficiency of research ethics experts and inadequate training on conduct of research ethics. The study results recommend to standardized the requirements of research ethic committees membership, allocate a private budget, develop a well-structures national research ethics guidelines, and empowering the committees with conduct of research ethics experts.

* The novelty in the work is being the first time to study the ethical committees’ membership requirements, level of ethics knowledge, workload, and perceived challenges.
* This study representing original work which has not been published elsewhere and that has not been submitted simultaneously for publication elsewhere. The manuscript has been read, revised and approved by the authors.

**Declaration of interest**

The authors have no relevant affiliations or financial involvement with any organization or entity with a financial interest in or financial conflict with the subject matter or materials discussed in the manuscript. This includes employment, consultancies, honoraria, stock ownership or options, expert testimony, grants or patents received or pending, or royalties.

The authors report no conflicts of interest (no disclosure to be declared)

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

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