RAMAIAH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

FERCI

FORUM FOR ETHICS REVIEW COMMITTEES IN INDIA

FERCICON 2026

OCTOBER 29, 30 & 31

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH ETHICS: TRANSFORMING DIGITAL INDIA FROM ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY & BEYOND.

"Navigating Ethical Issues in a Digital World"

Venue:
Council Hall,
Ramaiah Medical College,
MSRIT, Gnanagangothri Campus,
New BEL Road, MSR Nagar,
Bengaluru 560 054

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Dear Esteemed Delegates, Speakers, and Participants,

It is with immense pleasure and honour that we welcome you to FERCICON 2026, the annual conference of the Forum for Ethics Review Committees in India (FERCI), to be hosted by Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS), Bengaluru, India, from October 29th to 31st, 2026. We are privileged to bring together Institutional Ethics Committee members, researchers, academicians, healthcare professionals, policymakers and research-ethics advocates from across India and beyond. Bengaluru, a renowned hub of scientific innovation, healthcare, technology and higher education, provides an ideal setting for this important gathering.

As the Indian national chapter of FERCAP (Forum for Ethics Review Committees in Asia-Pacific), an initiative of WHO-TDR, FERCI has been working since 2008 to strengthen the ethical review of biomedical and health research in India. Through training, capacity building, SOP development, quality improvement and collaboration, FERCI supports Ethics Committees in promoting responsible research and safeguarding the dignity, rights, safety and well-being of research participants.

Reflecting this commitment, the theme of FERCICON 2026, "Transforming Research Ethics for a Digital India: From Academia, Industry and Beyond - Navigating Ethical Issues in a Digital World," addresses the profound changes brought about by artificial intelligence, digital health, big data, emerging technologies and industry-academia collaborations. The conference will examine the opportunities and ethical complexities emerging from these developments and explore responsible, participant-centred approaches to research in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

FERCICON 2026 will offer a dynamic programme of keynote lectures, panel discussions, thematic presentations, poster sessions, workshops and pre-conference events, providing opportunities to share experiences, discuss emerging issues and strengthen ethical research practices across academia, industry and healthcare. The conference aims to foster scientific integrity, participant welfare and responsible innovation, while strengthening the capacity of Ethics Committees and other stakeholders to navigate the changing research environment.

We warmly invite you to join us in Bengaluru for three days of learning, exchange and meaningful engagement as we collectively shape the future of research ethics in a digital world. We look forward to welcoming you to Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences for an enriching and memorable FERCICON 2026.

With Warm Regards,

Dr. Swati Sinha
Organizing Secretary, FERCICON 2026
Associate Professor, Dept. of Biotechnology,
Faculty of Natural Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences
Bengaluru, Karnataka, India.
Email: ruasfercicon2026@msruas.ac.in

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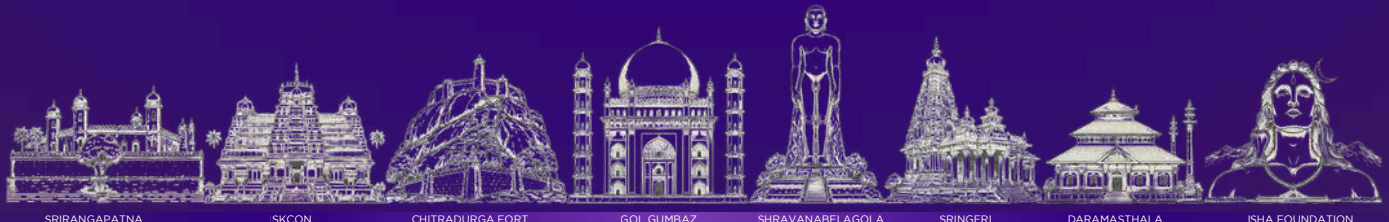
Oct 29th

Time	Session	Resource Person
2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Dilemma and decision-making in Ethics Review - Deliberations on real-life deidentified cases	**Dr Santanu Tripathi** Vice President, FERCI Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, JIMSH, Kolkata.

Oct 30th

Time	Session	Resource Person	Chair person/s
8:30 am - 9:30 am	Registration		
9:30 am - 10:00 am	Setting the Context	**Dr. Nandini K Kumar** DDG (SG), ICMR, New Delhi. **Dr. Vibha A Shetty** Professor. Prosthodontics, FDS, RUAS, Bengaluru.	
10:00 am - 10:45 am	Dr. Vasantha Muthuswamy Oration Lecture Navigating the Ethical Use of AI in Social Science Research and Ethics Review	**Dr. Cristina E Torres** Adjunct Professor, University of Philippines Manila and Asian Regional Coordinator, FERCAP, Manila.	**Dr. Sanjay Ramakrishana Bijwe** Dean - Research & Innovation, RUAS, Bengaluru.
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Coffee Break		
11:00 am - 11:45 am	Inauguration		
11:45 am - 12:30 pm	Plenary-Theme Lecture From AI-Assisted to AI-Generated Research: Where do ethics and accountability begin?	**Dr Nageshwar Guptha M** Head of AI and Data Science, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, RUAS, Bengaluru.	**Dr. Nanda Kumar B S** Dean (I/C) - School of Public Health, RUAS, Bengaluru.
12:30 pm - 1:15 pm	Ethics of CSR	**Dr Chethana Thirthahalli,** Technical Lead, Health, HCL, Bengaluru.	**Dr. Swati Sinha** Associate Professor RUAS, Bengaluru.
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	Lunch		



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Oct 30th

Time	Session	Resource Person	Chair person/s
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Panel Discussion: AI in academic research: Opportunities, Risks, and Ethical Responsibilities	**Dr Sudipto Pallab Roy** Scientist F, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi **Dr Bikash Medhi** Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, PGIMER, Chandigarh **Dr Hardhavardhan Rao** HoD, Gastroenterology, Ramaiah Medical College, Bengaluru. **Dr Chandil Kumar Gunashekara** Chair- HL7, Bengaluru. **Dr VV Binoy**- Associate Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.	Moderator - **Dr. Chandrashekar Janakiram** President, UG and PG Dental Education Board, National Dental Commission, New Delhi.
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Coffee Break		
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Topic- Panel Discussion: Ethical issues related to AI in Regulatory Trials	**Dr Chandrashekar Ranga** Joint Drug Controller, CDSCO, New Delhi **Dr R H Jani** Former Head & Senior Vice President – Global Clinical R&D, Zydus Cadila Healthcare Limited, Ahmedabad. **Mr. Guruprasad S** VP & Global Director, BOSCH **Dr Pramila Kalra** Professor of Endocrinology & Metabolism, Ramaiah Medical College, RUAS, Bengaluru **Dr Vishwanath** Professor of Medicine and Head of Clinical Operations, Ramaiah Medical College, RUAS, Bengaluru. **Dr Jerin Jose Cherian** Scientist E, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi	**Dr. Anuradha HV** Member Secretary, Ethical Committee, Ramaiah Medical College, RUAS, Bengaluru.
4:30 pm - 5:00 pm		FERCI AGM	
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Quiz competition- Final	Dr Anuradha HV	
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Cultural Program		

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ICMR Bioethics Unit

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Oct 31st

Time	Session	Resource Person	Chair person/s
9.00 - 10.30 am	Oral/ Poster Presentations		Dr. Lalita Savardekar Scientist F, ICMR-NIRWH, Mumbai
9.30 am - 11.30 am	ICMR Round Table - Non-Regulatory Clinical Trials	**Dr Chandrashekar Ranga** Joint Drugs Controller (India), CDSCO, New Delhi **Dr. Nandini K Kumar** President, FERCI and Former, DDG (SG), ICMR, New Delhi **Dr Bikash Medhi** Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, PGIMER, Chandigarh **Dr Santanu Kumar Tripathi** Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology, JIMSH, Kolkata. **Dr Ganesh N Dhakale** Professor & Head, Dept. of Pharmacology, AIIMS, Nagpur **Dr Temsunaro Rongsen Chandola** Senior Scientist, SAS, New Delhi **Dr Sanjay Juvekar** Consultant (Research), KEM Hospital and Research Centre, Pune **Dr Sudipto Pallab Roy** Scientist F, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi **Dr. Dileep G** Scientist-C, ICMR Bioethics Unit, Bengaluru	**Dr Aparna Mukherjee** Scientist F & Head Reproductive, Child Health & Nutrition (RCN) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Headquarters, New Delhi
11.30 am - 11.45 am	Coffee Break		

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ICMR Bioethics Unit

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Oct 31st

Time	Session	Resource Person	Chair person/s
11.45 am - 12.45 pm	ICMR Dissemination session on ICMR Operational Guidelines for Single Ethics Review of Multicentre Research in India	**Dr Narinder Kumar Mehra** Hon Emeritus Scientist and Former Dean Research, and National Chair, AIIMS, New Delhi. **Dr Sudha Ramalingam** Professor & Head, Community Medicine PSG IMSR, Coimbatore **Dr Vinita Agarwal** Professor, Department of Pathology, SGPGIMS, Lucknow **Dr Olinda Timms** Professor, Dept. of Health and Humanities St. John's Research Institute, Bengaluru **Dr Vina Vaswani** Director, Centre for Ethics, Yenepoya University, Mangalore **Dr Sunita Taneja** Senior Scientist, SAS, New Delhi **Dr Jerin Jose Cherian** Scientist E, CSTU, ICMR Headquarters, New Delhi	Moderated by **Dr. Roli Mathur** Scientist G and Head, ICMR Bioethics Unit, Bengaluru
12.45 pm - 1.15 pm	Lessons from real world Ethics Committee practice	**Dr Olinda Timms** Professor, Dept. of Health and Humanities St. John's Research Institute, Bengaluru	
1.15 pm - 1.45 pm	UNESCO's recommendations on Ethics of AI	**Dr. Dafna Feinholz** Chief, Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology Section, UNESCO, Paris	**Dr. Vijayashree** Professor & HOD, General Medicine, Ramaiah Medical College, RUAS, Bengaluru.
2.00 pm	Lunch		

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Registration Fees: Including GST 18%

Category	Registration Fee Till 20th October, 2026	Registration Fee from 21th October, 2026 / SPOT	Registration Fee Hybrid Mode
FERCI Member	₹ 5,900/-	₹ 7,080/-	₹ 2,065/-
FERCI Non-member	₹ 6,490/-	₹ 7,670/-	₹ 2,065/-
Student*	₹ 4,130/-	₹ 5,310/-	₹ 2,065/-
Spouse	₹ 5,310/-	₹ 6,490/-	₹ 2,065/-
Children (5-12 years)	₹ 2,950/-	₹ 4,130/-	-
Group of 5 FERCI Members (must include one lay person and one legal member)	₹ 23,600/-	₹ 29,500/-	₹ 10,325/-
Group of 5 Non FERCI Members	₹ 26,550/-	₹ 32,450/-	₹ 10,325/-
Industry Delegate	₹ 8,260/-	₹ 9,440/-	₹ 2,065/-
Pre-Conference Event	₹ 1,770/-	₹ 2,360/-	₹ 1,000/-

*Studentship to be certified by the concerned Head of the Department.

REGISTRATION QR CODE

We invite research scholars and students to submit original abstracts for Presentations (Poster/Oral) at FERCICON 2026. Abstracts are invited featuring best practices pertaining to:

- **AI and research ethics**
- **Digital health**
- **Big data and data privacy**
- **Emerging technologies**
- **Digital informed consent**
- **Ethics of AI-enabled research**
- **Governance of health data**
- **Technology-driven clinical research**
- **Ethical challenges in academia–industry collaborations**

Submit: ruasfercicon2026@msruas.ac.in

Last date: 20th October, 2026

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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH ETHICS: TRANSFORMING DIGITAL INDIA FROM ACADEMIA, INDUSTRY & BEYOND.

"Navigating Ethical Issues in a Digital World"

- Collaborate across disciplines
- Strengthen ethical practice
- embrace digital transformation
- Innovate for a better future bulb

See you in Bengaluru!

Conference Secretariat

FERCICON 2026 Secretariat

Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences

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