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Editorial

Climate Change and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) Vol 16 (2)

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Climate change has a significant impact on human health. Research in this area is crucial for developing effective methods to reduce its effects. Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) play a crucial role in detecting potential gaps, mapping out patterns of consequences on vulnerable populations, health systems, and emphasising gaps in climate and health/biomedical research in specific geographic areas. In addition, IRBs are responsible for making decisions on the study's adherence to the (bio)ethical principles of data privacy and confidentiality, equality and diversity, inclusivity, and respect for research participants' dignity. To act in this capacity, IRBs require considerable awareness and skills to analyse the dimensions of the impacts of climate change on health and health systems, and the ethical aspects of it. Nonetheless, country specific laws and regulations, socio-cultural influences, interdisciplinary and global collaborations influence these abilities of IRBs¹ and consequences on the study design and implementations.

To specifically understand the role, status, influencing factors of decision-making of IRBs in Bangladesh, this issue of Bangladesh Journal of Bioethics had focused on the *Climate Change and Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)* in the country. The issue comprises of one research article, three review articles, one short communication and the Bangladesh Bioethics Society news on its outreach programme. The articles cover primary study to conceptual issues and recommend some underlying changes as needed for the IRBs in Bangladesh.

As the journal's editor, I would like to thank all the contributors for their valuable contributions in the issue. I look forward to welcoming more enlightened articles for the forthcoming issues of the journal on *Climate Change, Artificial Intelligence, and Health Systems*, due to publish in March 2026.

Finally, I hope readers appreciate reading the interesting pieces in the issue.

Thank you,

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