



## Editorial Introduction

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This issue, the third in Volume 19 of *Asian Biotechnology and Development Review*, has two articles and a book review.

Clinical trials are an inevitable part of development of new medicines and their approval. They have often become controversial on account of concerns over ethical issues and regulatory norms. Since a significant number of them are conducted in developing countries, questions about exploitation, prior informed consent and procedural issues are raised. Globally, the industry and the governments have realized that the credibility and acceptability of data are at stake if norms on trials are revised to ensure that ethical rules and other obligations are adhered to. Taking into account data on clinical trials in Africa and their respective developments, the paper by Swapan Kumar Patra and Mammo Muchie, provides an interesting analysis and suggests measures to make them more acceptable as well as to meet the ethical norms. Readers may be aware that even in India regulating clinical trials is a significant issue and over the years the regulatory system is getting revamped to address concerns on inter alia, prior informed consent and to move towards harmonization.

Bio economy, bioclusters, global innovation networks are buzz words in discussions on geographies of innovation. Why some locations attract biotechnology firms or for that matters firms specializing in high technology prefer some regions is a matter of study and debate. In India, Bengaluru aka Bangalore and Hyderabad are the two important centers for bioclusters. What makes Bengaluru tick as a biocluster is an interesting question and what is the role of institutions, actors, networks in making Bengaluru part of global innovation networks is another important issue. Nimita Pandey and Pranav N Desai address these in their article and present some preliminary findings, that will be of interest to policy makers.

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RIS has been studying status of biotechnology in Asia and Pacific for many years. Earlier, RIS did a study for UNESCO and based on that a publication was brought out, which is available at [http://ris.org.in/images/RIS\\_images/pdf/UNESCO%20Biotechnoloy%20Report-web.pdf](http://ris.org.in/images/RIS_images/pdf/UNESCO%20Biotechnoloy%20Report-web.pdf). Recently FAO commissioned RIS to undertake a study on status of agricultural biotechnologies in Asia Pacific. A presentation based on the initial findings was presented at the Regional Meeting held in September 2017 at Kula Lumpur. More details about the meetings, RIS presentation and other presentations is available at <http://www.fao.org/asiapacific/events/detail-events/en/c/1440/> ; RIS Presentation is at

*<https://www.slideshare.net/ExternalEvents/the-status-of-application-capacities-and-the-enabling-environment-for-agricultural-biotechnologies-in-the-asia-pacific-region-presentation-of-preliminary-findingsssrinivas>*

As ABDR completes 19 volumes we take this opportunity to thank RIS for hosting ABDR and supporting it. Prof.Sachin Chaturvedi, DG, RIS has been associated with ABDR since its inception and is the guiding spirit. A journal cannot survive without continuous support from authors, referees and obviously without readers. We thank all of them for their support and appreciation. Over the years ABDR has grown with the consistent guidance of the Editorial Advisory Board. We thank the Board for the support we have received.

We look forward to your comments and suggestions.