

## Dr. Ikram Ullah

### Assistant Professor of Biosciences

SA-Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences (SA-CIRBS)  
International Islamic University, Islamabad.

**Specialization:** Neurosciences/ Cell Signaling/Neurological Disorders

#### Education:

**M.Phil. in Biotechnology**, University of Peshawar, Pakistan (2006)

**PhD in Applied Life Sciences**, GSNU, South Korea (2012)

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#### Background or Introduction:

Dr. Ikram Ullah joined SA-CIRBS, IIUI as a pioneer faculty member in August 2014. He did his MSc in Animal Sciences (QAU, Islamabad) & M.Phil from (University of Peshawar) with specialization in Microbial Biotechnology. Then he joined PhD fellowship at Gyeongsang National University, South Korea under the umbrella of a prestigious PhD fellowship Brain Korea 21 Project (BK21). In 2012, he completed his PhD in the field of Cellular/Molecular Neurosciences with main focus on alcohol addiction, epilepsy, memory impairment using both *in vitro* & *in vivo* animal models. At the same time, he focused on the mechanism of diseases along with exploring the novel bioactive molecules as a therapeutic approach for neurological disorders. By completing the PhD fellowship, Dr. Ikram continued as a senior researcher (Postdoctoral Fellow) funded by Korean Research Fellowship (KRF) program for two and half years.

#### Research Interests and Focus:

Beside my experience in the field of neurosciences currently my research group focused is on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), depression, obesity, diabetes and related metabolic syndromes/disorders. My research team is trying to develop and explore some natural remedies for understanding and curing these diseases at molecular/cellular levels. To achieve these goals and objectives we have established an animal house facility at the center for the initial understanding of different mechanisms involved.

#### Research Grants/Awards/Honors:

- NRPU research grant (Rs. 3.2 million) from Higher Education Commission (2017) *"Dietary Novel approach of flavonoids against high fat diet induced impaired cognitive and insulin signalling in Alzheimer disease"*. (PI: Dr. Ikram Ullah)
- SRGP research grant (Rs. 0.5 million) from Higher Education Commission (2018) *Plastic pollution in fresh water system: an emerging pollutant of concern" as CO-P.I. (Completed)*

#### Current Research Students:

##### MS Research Students

<i>Student name</i>	<i>Status</i>
Hira	Research work in progress
Hamna	Research work in progress
Faiza Mustaq	Research work in progress

##### PhD Research Students

<i>Student name</i>	<i>Status</i>
Beenish Israr	Thesis in progress
Waqas Ahmed	Research work
Ashfaq Ahmed	Research work in progress

#### Research Publications:

- Anthocyanins Protect against Kainic Acid-induced Excitotoxicity and Apoptosis via ROS -activated AMPK Pathway in Hippocampal Neurons, *CNS Neuroscience & Therapeutics*, 2014.

- Neuroprotective effect of osmotin against ethanol-induced apoptotic neurodegeneration in the developing rat brain, *Cell Death & Disease*,**2014**.
- Thymoquinone and Vitamin C Attenuates Pentylentetrazole-Induced Seizures Via Activation of GABAB1 Receptor in Adult Rats Cortex and Hippocampus, *Neuromolecular Medicine*, **2015**.
- Reactive oxygen species generating photosynthesized ferromagnetic iron oxide nanorods as promising antileishmanial agent, *Nanomedicine*,**2020**.
- Novel nonsense IL-12R $\beta$ 1 mutation associated with recurrent tuberculosis, *Immunologic Research*,**2019**.

### **Conferences & Workshops:**

- International workshop on “Strengthening & Sustaining a Network of public & animal health clinical laboratories in Pakistan” Pak-US-Joint, 27-09-2016 ~ 29-09-2016.
- Intellectual property rights and their registration systems in Pakistan, 17-18th May,2016, ORIC-IIUI
- 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Biotechnology Challenges and Opportunities in Pakistan, HEC, Pakistan, 8-02-2017 ~ 09-02-2017.
- Three-day international conference chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences: Recent Approaches in Research & Applications, FCCL Lahore, January 17- 19,2018
- 1st international conference: Advances in Drug Discovery & Development,NARC, Islamabad 3-5 January, 2018.