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THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY Newsletter



APRIL 2001

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Seminar Raises Issues of Teaching English and Need to Formulate Appropriate Policies

The AKU Centre of English Language hosted a two-day seminar in February 2001, to raise issues and ask questions about the language policy and planning in Pakistan, highlighting the need for teaching English and formulating an appropriate policy. The seminar also brought to light the overriding issue of the use of information technology for

language teaching in Pakistan. In addition, it introduced the concept of a Quality Assurance System in language teaching. The seminar gave a unique opportunity to English language teachers in Pakistan to benefit from the expertise of reputed ELT (English Language Teaching) practitioners from all over the world.

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L to R: Dr. Shahid Amjad Chaudhry, Minister of State, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission of Pakistan; Ms. Sabiha Mansoor, Associate Prof. and Head, Centre of English Language, AKU; Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, President, AKU; Ms. Zobaida Jalal, Federal Minister for Education; Dr. Naz Rassool, Chair, Board of Advanced Studies School of Education, University of Reading, UK; Dr. Mira Phailbus, Principal, Kinnaird College, Lahore; Ms. Linda Bower, Teaching Centre Manager, British Council, Karachi; Dr. Camer Vellani, Rector, AKU and Dr. Richard Hardwick, Director, British Council, Karachi.

AKU Seminar: 'Higher Education - Promise and Potential' World Bank-UNESCO Task Force Urges International Donors to Increase Support for Higher Education

AKU held a seminar in Karachi on February 7, 2001, to create awareness among senior academics, policy makers and donors in Pakistan of the contents and conclusions of the Report of the joint World Bank-UNESCO Task Force on Higher Education in Developing Countries.

The principal speakers included Professors Henry Rosovsky and David Bloom of Harvard University. Welcoming the guest speakers, Dr. Camer Vellani, Rector, AKU, drew attention to the need for providing higher education in every country, adding that the knowledge of the interdependence of the various elements of the world we live in adds a broader context that induces tolerance and constructive behavior. Henry Rosovsky, the Geyser University Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the Harvard University College of Arts and Sciences, commented on the importance given by the Task Force to general education as an important component of higher education. While recognising that in knowledge-based societies, development of human capital is

the key, the Task Force suggested that scientific and technological education be balanced by a broad based education which values the abilities to think, write and

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The Stories I Live With

Mir Afzal Tajik - A School Teacher from a Shaky Start to a Successful Present

Mir Afzal Tajik comes from Chitral district of NWFP, the remote mountainous areas of Pakistan. He joined AKU in 1998. He reminisces about his bygone days as a student and finally as a teacher, and shares with us some of the challenges he faced and overcame during his journey to success. He is presently pursuing his doctoral studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, the University of Toronto, Canada.

Tell us about your early education ...

Since my childhood, I was encouraged to take part in social and religious events. I often missed the joy and excitement of playing with children my age. I went to my village school, which was the only one in that village of over 120 households. It had no building and, very often, no teachers. So, we students built two classrooms for which we collected stones, sand and wood, and our parents constructed the walls and the floor.

Learning consisted of memorizing the bits of information and knowledge given by my teachers. My mind was trained to store the information given and regurgitate it when asked. The instinct, capacity and intellect I had as a normal child were frozen by the kind of learning style I was exposed to.

For my secondary education, I moved to a town 45 kms away from my village. Here, I found the same system of direct transmission and memorization as in my primary school. I could not go home on short holidays, as there was no proper road connecting my village. The only way to go home was to walk for 10-12 hours, which I did twice a year.

The teachers believed in corporal punishment and sarcastic remarks. Harsh words and physical punishment was the daily routine, and, as a result, many students left school before completing their secondary education. Unfortunately, the teachers did not believe in friendly relationships with their students.

Even after completing ten years of schooling, I could not write a couple of sentences in my own words. I could not speak Urdu fluently, my second language and the medium of instruction. Nor could I utter a single sentence in correct English. All I had gathered was bits of information memorized on different subjects.

Tell us some of your experiences as a teacher ...

After two years of college, which was not very different from my secondary school, I joined the Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan (AKES, P) as a teacher. Embarking on teaching without any training was a daunting task. Particularly teaching grown-up girls, some almost my age, in



a very stressful and culturally sensitive era, was the biggest challenge for me. The problems began to resolve once I got the opportunity to participate in the professional development programmes offered by AKES, P. I did my Primary Teaching Certificate (PTC) and Certificate of Teaching (CT) through the Field-Based Teachers Development Programme of the AKES, P, Chitral, and was the highest scorer in the internal and external examinations in both the programmes. Later, I worked as a full-time teacher in my own school and as a Learning Supervisor for a cluster of other schools. In my second job, I visited different schools and provided on-the-job support to my colleagues. I gained an insight into how different teachers perceived the educational realities, challenges and dilemmas.

I have also worked in the capacity of a Master Trainer for three years during which I designed and implemented different professional training programmes for in-service teachers. It was a phenomenal learning experience to work with teachers from different backgrounds and diverse experiences, but at times I would find myself like a fish out of a pond, when some teachers acted like stone-age obstructionists. However, there did come a time, when I was satisfied with the degree of improvement demonstrated by the teachers. I completed my B.A. and B.Ed. from Peshawar University as a private student.

I got an opportunity to go on a 10-week study tour to England, where I visited schools in Bristol and Wales, interacted with teachers, and attended a short course. My limited proficiency in English hampered my efforts to gain the optimum benefits from this visit. However, from this exposure I began to realize that the 'context' makes a difference in shaping one's career. Having been educated in the least privileged schools of the mountainous north, I had a tunnel vision of education: the ability to read and write was everything. After visiting a developed country, I realised that being a teacher entails far more than just standing in front of the class and solving a set of problems for the students. I reminded myself that "aiming low is not a failure — it is a crime."

When did you join AKU-IED?

I did my M.Ed. from AKU Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED) in 1998, which turned out to be a transforming experience for me. I had entered a glorious academic world – a unique world, different from anything else I had ever known before. My pride in joining this special place was mixed with fear, "would I fit in?", and uncertainty, "would I make it?". My shaky background in this forum of intellectuals from other parts of the world really daunted me.

The biggest challenge I faced was my weak English. Being a voiceless student in the class would have frustrated me had it not been for the congenial and supportive environment of AKU-IED.

The experience I gained from this programme was much greater than what I had learned from my earlier schooling and teaching combined. Here I found the 'enabling environment', which encouraged me to scrutinize my beliefs and practices about teaching and learning. I experienced a change in my classroom practice as I revisited the 'brilliant' ideas, such as child-centred teaching, activity-based teaching, using concrete materials and lesson planning, etc.

What are you doing now?

I am now at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, the University of Toronto (OISE/UT) and working for my doctorate through the sponsorship of the AKU-IED. My major area of studies at OISE is 'Teachers' Professional Development'. I believe that if we are to improve the quality of education in our schools in Pakistan, we must equip our teachers with in-depth professional insights and repertoires. I am indebted to both AKU-IED and the AKES, P for providing me with a series of opportunities to expand my professional capacity. These opportunities have enabled me to live in the present while reconstructing my shaky past into a brighter future, and this is what education is all about.

I am looking forward to experiencing the excitements and uncertainties of conducting a research project which aims to explore the voices and visions of teachers and teacher educators in distant Chitral. I believe, we as teachers can make a difference – only when we understand the dignity of our voices! 'Inshah Allah' (God willing).

Policy Dialogue Influences School Health Promotion

A two-day policy dialogue was held by the Health Action Schools (HAS) project, based at AKU Institute for Educational Development (AKU-IED), in January 2001. Co-founders, Dr. Hugh Hawes of the Child-to-Child movement and Professor Emeritus from the Institute of Education, London University, and Dr. Tashmin Kassam-Khamis, Assistant Professor, AKU-IED and the HAS team, facilitated the programme.

The University hosted the seminar with the objective of advocating content and approaches for health education in schools, based on lessons learnt from the HAS pilot action research project. This three-year research project, headed by Dr. Khamis at AKU-IED in partnership with Save the Children (UK), aims to develop health promoting schools in Pakistan and to influence policy on health education in the national schools. Participants' feedback showed that this first Policy Dialogue was a great success, evidenced also by the high attendance. Participants included representatives from the federal and provincial ministries of Education and Health, including the Head of the Curriculum Bureau, INGOs (International Non-Governmental Organisations) and NGOs working with children in health and education, including UNICEF, WHO, EC and the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). More than 50 people attended the two days of the dialogue and some 100 participated in the session.

The dialogue culminated in the book launch of the Urdu adaptation of the Child-to-Child health education activity sheets for teachers and health workers - 'Sehat-ki-Batein' - in the newly established Primary Education and Child-to-Child Resource Centre at AKU-IED. Over 200 copies of the book were distributed free of cost to all the participants, who also enjoyed the performance and displays by children from the Health Action Pilot Schools.

The outcome of the dialogue will be a policy report on content and approaches for health education in schools based on the seminar recommendations, which will be disseminated to policy makers at the provincial and federal levels.



Dr. Gordon Macleod, Acting Director of AKU-IED, and participants at the two-day policy dialogue on School Health Promotion.

Rising Profile of Neurology

Neurologists are physicians who specialize in the care of nervous system disorders, such as stroke, epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, nerve and muscle diseases, headaches, backaches, and various forms of dementia. Long considered an area of medicine where little could be done for such patients, in recent years, neurology has seen an explosion in the fundamental understanding of neurological disease and in the availability of treatment options. AKU is marching in step with these advances.

Neurology at AKU is an active academic and clinical programme organized as a section within the Department of Medicine. Headed by Associate Professor, Dr. Shahid Baig, the group comprises seven internationally-qualified neurologists, with busy inpatient and consultation services, state-of-the-art diagnostics, and rigorous residency and fellowship training programmes. In addition, an epilepsy monitoring unit is expected to be ready shortly. The section is also pursuing research on aspects of stroke, neuromuscular diseases, and nervous system infections. With these facilities and attributes, AKU is becoming recognized as the leading centre of neurology in Pakistan.

An important component of the neurology section is the clinical neurophysiology service. Under the directorship of Dr. Nadir Ali Syed, this programme provides a range of specialized services including electroencephalography, electromyography, nerve conduction studies, sleep studies, and botulinum toxin therapy. This programme also incorporates a two-year clinical neurophysiology fellowship (the only such fellowship in the country) for training interested neurologists. Critical to the neurophysiology programme's high quality is the stewardship of Mr. Mustafa Khan, Senior Assistant Manager of Neurophysiology Services, who is also the group's longest serving member.

The Section of Neurology's major new initiative is a comprehensive stroke programme that will be able to deliver optimal and efficient stroke care according to international standards. An important part of this programme is a specialized five-bed Stroke Unit that will be equipped with state-of-the-art monitoring systems and will be staffed round-

the-clock by specialized stroke nurses and neurology physicians. Over the past year, Dr. Nadir Ali Syed from Neurology, in collaboration with Ms. Khurshid Khowaja from Nursing Services, has successfully guided the institutional task force, whose efforts have been integral to the planning and implementation of the AKU Stroke Unit. In addition to this unit, the stroke programme will include stroke-related diagnostic services such as Transcranial Doppler, a 24-hour stroke emergency triage system, multidisciplinary stroke rehabilitation (incorporating occupational, speech, and home-based physical therapy), and a stroke fellowship training programme. As the stroke programme develops, Dr. Saad Shafqat will assume medical directorship of all stroke-related services including the Stroke Unit, which is scheduled to be commissioned in July 2001.

Neurologic illness represents a great burden of disease in Pakistan, but neurology remains an underserved specialty: AKU's neurology residency training programme, coordinated by Dr. Mohammad Wasay, is an answer to this need. Because of the improved profile of the neurology service, the residency programme is also becoming better known. The programme has graduated four neurologists thus far, two of whom have cleared their FCPS examinations and are now staff neurologists elsewhere in the city; the other two are currently fellows in clinical neurophysiology at AKU. Undergraduate and graduate teaching in neurology is also an important focus of the section, and is overseen by Dr. Imran Wahedna.

The Neurology section's chief, Dr. Shahid Baig, is pleased with the remarkable recent growth of this service in neurology at AKU; he is also quick to point out the important partnerships with related services, including neurosurgery, radiology and emergency services, that help make AKU neurology a success.

"The Section of Neurology at AKU is one of the institution's best resources," says Dr. Raymond A. Smego, Jr., Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine. "The unique diversity and quality of the faculty, the range of neurodiagnostic capabilities available, and the soon-to-be-operational stroke and epilepsy units, all represent tremendous assets in the delivery of patient care and academic advancement in this field."



The Section of Neurology at AKU is one of the institution's best resources. Neurology Consultants (L to R) : Dr. Shahid Baig, Dr. Imran Wahedna, Dr. Mohammad Wasay, Dr. Nadir Ali Syed and Dr. Saad Shafqat.

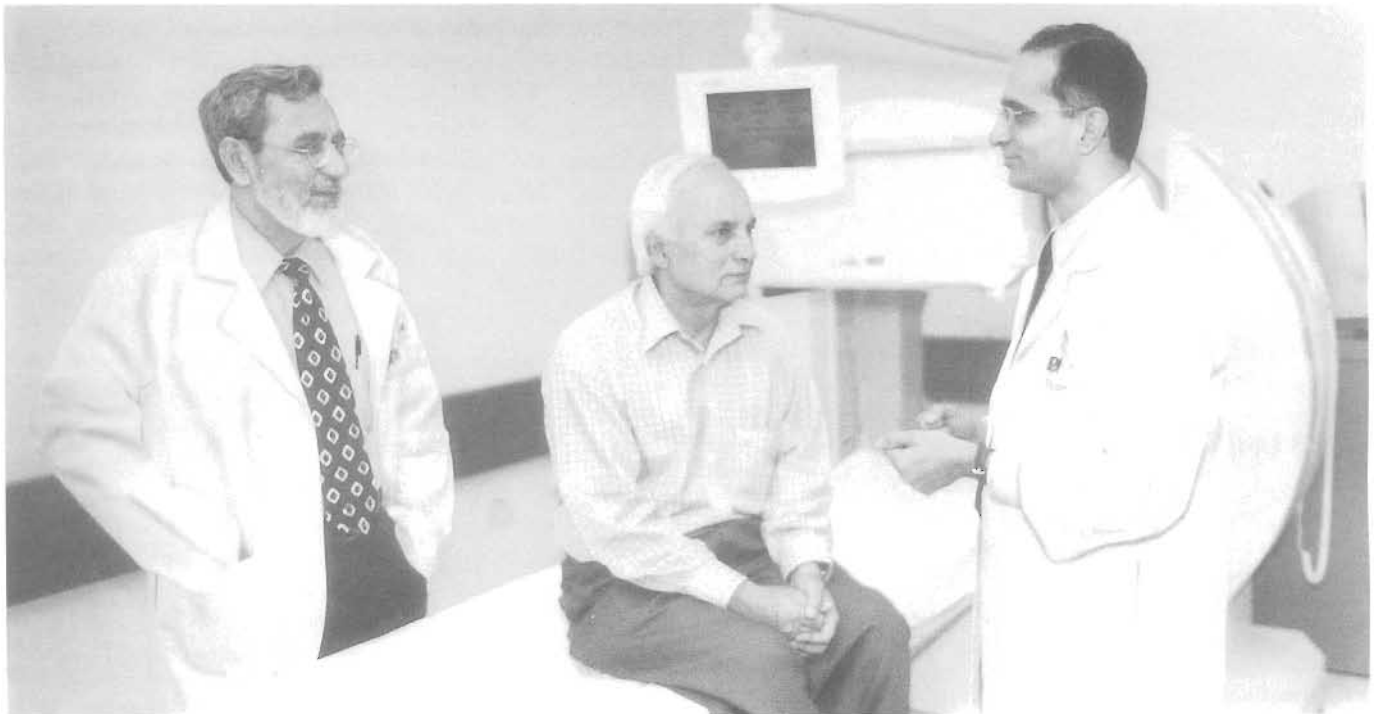
Nuclear Medicine Services Ready to Take Off

The range of specialized clinical services at AKUH continues to expand, the latest addition being the Nuclear Medicine programme, which will commence in mid 2001. The field of nuclear medicine uses radioactive chemicals for medical purposes, for example in diagnosing decreased blood flow to the heart (myocardial perfusion scanning), detecting cancer deposits in the body (technetium bone scanning), or curing certain disorders of the thyroid gland (radio-iodine treatment).

Nuclear medicine services are currently available at only a few other locations in Karachi, all of which experience heavy patient traffic. "There is considerable local demand for nuclear medicine services," says Dr. Rashid Hashmi,

When fully operational, the Nuclear Medicine programme will provide a range of diagnostic services in cardiology, nephrology, pulmonary and cancer medicine, as well as therapeutic services for thyroid disease and certain kinds of blood disorders. Other investigations, such as gallium and white blood cell scanning for detecting hidden areas of inflammation are to be added in the near future.

The clinical programmes are eager to start utilizing the new Nuclear Medicine services. "Nuclear Medicine techniques are a very welcome addition to AKUH, allowing objective diagnostic assessment for many of our patients," said Assistant Professor, Dr. Syed M. Jilani, a cancer specialist. In



Nuclear Medicine provides a range of diagnostic services. Dr. Rashid Hashmi (right), Assistant Professor of Radiology, discussing a patient's diagnostic assessment with Dr. M. Younus Sheikh, Chair of the Department.

Assistant Professor of Radiology, who was specially recruited for developing the Nuclear Medicine services at AKUH. Dr. Hashmi graduated from Dow Medical College in 1987 and, in addition to specializing in Nuclear Medicine, has earned a doctorate from Nagasaki University, Japan, in Radiology. He has also served as a consultant to the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission.

Radiology Department Chairman, Dr. M. Younus Sheikh notes that with the start of Nuclear Medicine services, all imaging modalities will be available under one roof at this academic centre. The Nuclear Medicine section will be housed in the Radiology Department, off the long corridor that extends from the department's courtyard entrance towards the MRI suite. The physical infrastructure is compact and accessible, and has been equipped with cutting-edge technology, including a dual-head, variable angle gamma camera that is the first of its kind in Pakistan.

In addition to meeting clinical needs, the section will undertake research work in the area of tumour imaging, particularly in differentiating abnormal growths in the body as benign or malignant.

The total cost of the Nuclear Medicine facility, including equipment and renovations, was Rs. 36 million (US\$ 600,000). This facility was fully funded by donations, primarily from the corporate sector, solicited by the AKU Resource Development Committee. The Committee has already received a pledge of Rs.50 million (US\$ 833,334), which includes Nuclear Medicine. In addition, it would complement the Patient Welfare programme for the treatment of indigent patients, as well as provide scholarships, which ensure that no Pakistani citizen or resident who is otherwise qualified for admission is excluded solely due to his or her inability to bear educational costs.

Improving the Quality of Life of Indigent Patients



A Truck Driver

Ahmed, a hardworking, middle-aged truck driver, has one ambition in life: to educate his two sons, aged eight and twelve. An unlettered man himself, he was forced to work for a living when barely out of childhood. Today, he slog~~s~~ day and night as a truck driver, earning up to Rs. 300 (US\$ 5) a day. Conscious of his own lack of education, he is struggling hard to give his boys the opportunity he never had. He sends his children to St. Lawrence School where the fee, after concessions, is Rs. 520 per child. Transport, books and stationery, uniforms and other incidentals all add up to a hefty sum, but Ahmed does not give up.

For the last couple of years, the truck driver had been experiencing chest pain for which he even visited a cardiovascular hospital. But the prescribed medication and treatment were beyond his pocket, so he began to ignore the pain, hoping it would go away. Finally, the pain forced him to approach AKUH, where a Coronary Angiogram revealed CAD (coronary artery disease) and he was advised Cardiac Bypass Surgery. Panic-stricken, he wanted to run away as there was no way he could pay the total cost of the surgery, Rs.220,000 (US\$ 3,667). An AKUH welfare officer came to his aid.

She explained to him the necessity of the surgery and advised him to arrange whatever funds he could. She also guided him to contact private donors and agencies, with whose help the truck driver was able to raise Rs. 134,000 (US\$ 2,233). The remaining amount, Rs. 86,000 (US\$ 1,434), was provided by the AKUH Patient Welfare Department and Ahmed was promptly admitted to AKUH.

He spent seven days in the hospital, which included Cardiac Rehabilitation. Now, free of pain and fired anew with his old ambition, he is back at work, driving day and night to ensure a bright future for his little boys.

A Mother

Nasreen, a 46-year-old housewife, lived a peaceful life in her small comfortable home, caring for her five children. Her husband, Khan, works as a senior clerk in the Pakistan Railways, earning a meagre salary of Rs. 4,500 (US\$ 75) a month.

Nasreen was once in the habit of chewing 'pan' and betel nut, which eventually proved detrimental to her health. She started experiencing pain in her mouth and developed sores; she had difficulty eating, and even talking was a chore for her. She went to the nearest general practitioner, who simply prescribed some pain killers and mouth gel, which hardly gave her any relief. When her pain reached an intolerable level, a friend suggested AKUH.

The physician diagnosed Nasreen with mouth cancer and recommended immediate surgery. When the family was informed of the total cost of the surgery, estimated at Rs. 95,000 (US\$ 1,583), both Khan and Nasreen were terrified. They could not even dream of arranging such an amount.

They contacted their doctor again to find some way out. Their doctor suggested that they contact the patient welfare office. The welfare officer listened to their problem and assured them assistance. The hope given by the officer encouraged the family to go ahead with the surgery. Friends and family members pooled their resources and the surgery was scheduled.

The total cost of treatment came to Rs.112,143 (US\$ 1,870). The welfare office paid Rs. 48, 743 (US\$ 812), and the rest was arranged by Nasreen's family and friends. The surgery entailed removal of a portion of her tongue, cheek and neck, but thankfully the timely surgical intervention ensured that she was spared the agony of a painful existence. Today, Nasreen is contentedly leading a normal life, happy in her small little world with her family.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

May - June 2001

Programme	Date
CME:	
• Surgery Problems	May 29-31
• Haematology/Oncology	June 26-28
'Signs, Symptoms and Care' -Public Health Awareness Programme:	
• Cardiology & Cardiac Surgery (Hyderabad)	May 18
• Urinary Complaints in Women	May 26
• Sports Injury and Keyhole Surgery	June 30

Staged Diabetes Management A New Approach to Diabetes Care Launched

Diabetes is one of the fastest-growing diseases all over the world, including South Asia. Today, the world is facing a diabetes epidemic with an estimated 150 million people with Diabetes Type 2 and this number is expected to double, reaching an alarming figure of almost 300 million by 2025. Pakistan is not far behind, with a currently estimated 6.5 million people with diabetes. If no intervention strategies are adopted, the WHO projected estimates for Pakistan in 2025, would rise to 14.5 million people with diabetes.

Ms. Rozmin Jamal, Honorary Consultant to the SDM project is currently working as Adjunct Assistant Professor, Health Sciences at the George Washington University, Washington, DC, USA and Vice President NUTRI-FIT Canada. She was instrumental in bringing the SDM project to the Aga Khan Health institutions and also contributed in promoting collaboration amongst AKU, Aga Khan Health Service, Pakistan (AKHS,P), BD (Becton Dickinson and Company) and IDC (International Diabetes Centre, Minnesota). To give due recognition, both to her professional expertise and voluntary efforts, she was appointed as honorary lecturer in the AKU Department of Community Health Sciences from April 1, 2000 for a period of three years.

AKHS, P has taken a lead to address this problem and a joint initiative for establishing comprehensive diabetes services at AKU and AKHS, P was taken in March 1999, with partnerships between AKU, AKHS, P, Becton Dickinson and Nutri-Fit Canada. This joint AKU/AKHS, P venture aims to provide quality diabetes care and improve clinical outcomes at all levels of care in both institutions, using the 'Staged Diabetes Management' model. The staged care approach combines patient education with an enhancing clinical quality of care using an algorithm approach.

To start with, the programme was launched at 12 primary health care outlets of AKHS, P and AKUH. The different components of the proposed comprehensive diabetes care programme are to be implemented over a five-year period. Each phase has specific goals and activities outlined:

1. Training programmes for health professionals, to enhance competency in managing and delivering diabetes care, using the Staged Diabetes Management Model;
2. Developing and implementing patient diabetes education centres with an aim to educate, promote and facilitate self-management of diabetes;
3. Establishing Patient Diabetes Supply and Training Centres to improve patient access to reliable diabetes supplies with correct training and instructions for use;
4. Integrating the care and treatment of diabetes-associated morbidities;
5. Initiating, developing and implementing Diabetes research and related infrastructure to support research activity aimed at improving the understanding of diabetes specific to the local population.

The programme aims to assist in the delivery of quality care by inspiring maximum involvement and support of the entire team of health professionals involved in diabetes care. This spirit and commitment was evident in all the activities conducted during Year 1. These activities included:

- A baseline assessment of the currently available facilities at the Aga Khan Network institutions to identify the gaps and requirements for implementing a diabetes care programme;
- A joint AKU-AKHS, P outcomes workshop attended by 50 medical and multi-disciplinary health professionals in which diabetes care, systems, process and financial outcome parameters were defined;
- A two-day joint consensus development workshop attended by 60 selected medical and allied health representatives;
- A two-day, skill development and training workshop, attended by 135 core medical and allied health professionals;
- A full-time Diabetes and Endocrinology Clinic in the D1 ward at AKUH, which started in March 2000. In addition, the Division of Family Medicine, Community Health Sciences, commenced diabetes treatment service at the Community Health Centre on a part-time basis (two days/week) in September 2000.

The programme is in its second year and two key initiatives are currently in progress both at AKU and AKHS, P:

1. Development and standardization of patient diabetes history/assessment and patient care/progress form;
2. Development of an integrated, computerized, diabetes patient database to provide easy access of selected clinical information and facilitate the monitoring of multiple outcomes.

Once fully implemented, this programme will help to provide efficient and effective diabetes care at all levels.

AKU/AKHS,P Steering Committees for Implementation of SDM Programme

AKU Steering Committee	AKHS,P Steering Committee
Dr Franklin White (Chair)	Mr Stephen Hayes (Chair)
Dr Jaweed Akhter	Mr Saleem Alwani
Dr Salma Badruddin	Dr Imam Yar Baig
Ms Farida Datoo	Dr Z.A. Faheem (SDM Coordinator)
Mr. Sohail Habib	Ms Rozina Hashwani
Dr Abdul Jabbar	Ms Fawzia Hoodbhoy
Dr Najmul Islam	Mr Aziz Ahmed Jan
Mr Aslam Jindani	Dr Ashrafunissa Karim
Mr Kawasji Kheswalla	Dr Altaf Khaliqdino
Ms Shahnaz Makhani	Dr Moosa Raheem
Mr Nurallah Merchant	Dr Aftab A. Khawaja
Dr Riaz Qureshi	Dr Rozina Mistry
Dr Ghazala Rafique (SDM Coordinator)	Ms Mumtaz Mughal
Mr Abdul Latif Sheikh	Mr Jawed Mumtaz
Dr Ahson Siddiqui	

World Bank-UNESCO Task Force Urges International Donors to Increase Support for Higher Education

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communicate clearly and effectively, and promotes moral and ethical standards. The Report presents important economic and social arguments for increasing support to the higher education sector. It urged donors to support higher education, something that has been neglected because of the focus on primary education.

The Sindh government's interest in this seminar was reflected by the presence of the Governor, Mohammadmian Soomro, the Provincial Minister for Education, Professor Anita Ghulam Ali, and Vice Chancellors of universities from across the province. Governor Soomro, in his address, referred to the major initiatives being undertaken by the government to improve the quality of education. He was

promote good governance in the higher education sector; and the need for partnerships and alliances, both inside and beyond Pakistan, essentially required to build strength and take advantage of modern technologies. The fact that the World Bank and UNESCO had sponsored this Report augurs well for the health of higher education. On behalf of the participants, Dr. Kassim-Lakha expressed the hope that increased support from key international agencies would revitalise reform efforts in the country.

The following day, Professor Rosovsky led a group of faculty and staff in wide ranging discussions on the University's new College of Arts and Sciences, for which planning is under way.



Panel discussion following the seminar on the joint World Bank-UNESCO Task Force Report on Higher Education in Developing Countries. L to R: Professor David Bloom of Harvard University; Captain U.A.G. Isani, Chair of University Grants Commission; Professor Henry Rosovsky, Harvard University; Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, President of AKU; Prof. Anita Ghulam Ali, Provincial Minister for Education; Syed Babar Ali, Pro-Chancellor of the Lahore University of Management Sciences and Dr. Camer Vellani, Rector of AKU.

pleased to note that the Task Force Report stressed good governance in higher education and the roles of both science and technology as well as general education.

The presentations evoked considerable interest among participants who included a wide cross-section of those interested in and responsible for education, representatives from the University Grants Commission and the World Bank, diplomats, and principals of schools and colleges. The intense and frank discussion of the current state of higher education, which followed the presentations, indicated a willingness to change. Professor Anita Ghulam Ali's participation as a panelist further indicated the government's interest in improving higher education.

In the concluding session, Dr Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, President, AKU, who had moderated the panel discussions, highlighted the critical implications of this report for Pakistan – the need for clear standards and systems, which

The seminar at AKU indicated that efforts to induce a change may be supported from within universities and that pragmatic plans for implementation might be received positively by the provincial and federal governments. In its conclusions, the seminar stressed the need for a document outlining such a plan, which could be implemented by collaborative efforts of the government, the University Grants Commission, faculty and leadership of universities.

As an outcome of these deliberations, it was recommended that a task force should be appointed by the Government of Pakistan to propose practical ways of improving higher education in the country. It was suggested that the task force should consist of 11 members comprising senior representatives of the Federal Ministry of Education, the University Grants Commission (UGC), the public universities, the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and AKU, co-chaired by Syed Babar Ali, Pro-Chancellor of LUMS, and Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha.

Prince Hassan of Jordan

"Towards an Ethic of Human Civilization"

During His Royal Highness Prince Hassan bin Talal's visit to Pakistan, he addressed the students, faculty and staff of the University and diplomats on the theme: Towards an Ethic of Human Civilization.

The Jordanian Prince said that it was difficult for him to relate to the concept of globalisation, a material order, as he believed that it was human values that needed to be enhanced. In an esoteric talk packed with abstract ideas and quotations in several languages from a wide spectrum of writers, Prince Hassan built a most persuasive and stimulating case for not forgetting people in the race towards globalisation. He highlighted the importance of the public realm in contrast to the private realm and added, "we live in a world that is becoming more and more exclusionist." He touched on the topic of 'governance' and explained that among its many definitions, the one he could live with concerned the public good. There had been a breakdown in communications between the governments and the governed, he stated. "Governments are not always interested in the well being of the people, and there lay a significant difficulty with most democracies."

Faculty, staff and students participated in the question and answer session that followed the speech and enjoyed the Prince's cerebral topic, coupled with his offbeat approach. They found him to be a dynamic and eloquent speaker.



Prince Hassan bin Talal on a tour of AKU School of Nursing, accompanied by Dr. Yasmin Amarsi, Associate Dean of Nursing.

AKU a Role Model for University of Central Asia



During their recent tour of Pakistan, Mr. Askar Aitmatov (centre), Advisor to the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and his delegation visited AKU. They discussed with Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, President of AKU, the progress of the University of Central Asia, being sponsored by His Highness the Aga Khan.

Mr. Aitmatov was very impressed with AKU facilities, as well as the systems, which ensured that the highest standards of education were maintained. He was especially interested in the students' admission process, which is merit-based, irrespective of class, colour, creed or gender. The delegation also visited the AKU-Institute for Educational Development at the University's Karimabad campus, which is a role model for the new school in Osh being built by the Aga Khan Development Network. AKU-IED assured the delegation of their full assistance to the much-needed school project. The delegation also held deliberations with the leadership of the Aga Khan Education Service, Pakistan.

Dr. Rozina Karmaliani First Ph.D. Nurse Returns to Her Alma Mater

"I want to see nurses participate in health system development, that is the focus of my teaching and research," says Dr. Rozina Karmaliani, the first Ph.D. alumnus of the AKU School of Nursing (AKUSON) to return to her Alma Mater.

Dr. Rozina Karmaliani is Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, AKU, and is jointly appointed at AKUSON (70%) and Community Health Services (CHS) (30%). Nursing remains her major area where she has had 15 years of professional education encompassing five years of intermittent experience. She joined AKUSON in 1985 and completed her baccalaureate in 1991, while working at CHS. Her increasing interest in nurses' role in health policy and management eventually culminated in a Master in Public Health (MPH) degree and a Master of Science in Nursing (M.Sc.N.) degree, both from the University of Minnesota, USA. In 1995, she returned to CHS and AKUSON as a teacher and Community Health Nurse Coordinator, and then went for her Ph.D. in 1996.

"At every stage, I believed I needed more theoretical and practical knowledge to participate in bringing changes at policy and health systems level." Her thesis was 'Inter-sectoral Collaborative Dynamics and their Effects on Systems Change: A Case Study on Healthy Families Initiative'. She is presently developing it into a manuscript for publication. When asked as to why she came back, even though her Ph.D. and Master's programmes were self-funded, she says, "In the



Family marches in the academic procession; Dr. Rozina Karmaliani with her baby and husband, who also graduated in Education Policy and Administration.

USA, one gets absorbed in the system but at AKU and in Pakistan, you can bring changes to the system which makes a difference in the nursing profession." She is presently teaching in Master's of Health Policy and Management at CHS, providing leadership to various national and university level committees, and is also working on the curriculum of M.Sc.N. programme that is to be launched later this year.

Despite her enviable professional qualifications, she does not undermine the importance of practice. "I don't want to miss the initial contact with the community; I go to field sites and work with staff and students to have hands-on experience, for this closes the gap between theory and practice."

Seminar Raises Issues of Teaching English

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The Chief Guest, Ms. Zobaida Jalal, the Federal Education Minister, Government of Pakistan, who inaugurated the seminar, said, "Let me affirm that the government is committed to improving the quality of its English language teaching programmes and supporting the efforts of other institutions through creating partnerships with the private sector."

The Deputy Director, Planning Commission, Dr. Shahid Amjad Chaudhry also attended the seminar. The 400 seminar participants included 15 international and 40 national delegates from all over Pakistan. It was an opportunity for learning and sharing not only for teachers and researchers but also for planners and decision makers.

The President of AKU, Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, in his address highlighted the need for understanding the importance of English in the regional, national and global context. He also expressed the necessity of formulating a policy that will meet national interests as well as the demands of the global economy. Dr. Lakha in his speech also discussed the role that the AKU Centre of English Language is playing

in fulfilling the growing demand for quality English language courses and English language teaching by sharing its expertise with students, teachers and professionals outside the University.

The day's highlights included the keynote address, plenary sessions, and panel discussions. In her address, the keynote speaker, Dr. Naz Rassool from the University of Reading, UK, stressed the importance of language, literacy, and communication in human development and lifelong learning. She also pointed out the significance of language as symbolic cultural power and economic exchange variable. Dr. Rassool discussed the expanding role of English through different globalizing cultural processes, presenting guidelines for a policy framework.

In one of the plenary sessions, Dr. Tariq Rahman from the Quaid-e-Azam University, Islamabad, traced the history of English from colonial South Asia to the present-day Pakistan, describing the two roles of English in Pakistan as a sustainer of elitism and a sustainer of liberalism. At the second plenary session, language policies and their implications in South Asia were discussed by speakers from various South Asian countries including Ms. Gopa Biswas from India, Dr. Hemamala and Dr. Ryhana Rahim from Sri Lanka, Dr. Razia Sultana Khan from Bangladesh, and Dr. Maya David from Malaysia.

University's First International Academic Initiative

Advanced Nursing Studies Programme Started in East Africa

The Advanced Nursing Studies (ANS) programme officially commenced in Uganda in January 2001, following receipt of full accreditation of AKU in that country. With the start of classes, the University has entered the first phase of its international presence outside Pakistan.

In this first year, two programmes are being offered, the Enrolled Nurse to Registered Nurse Conversion, and the Post-R.N. B.Sc.N. programmes. The ANS programme offered by AKU School of Nursing (AKUSON), is designed to provide continuing and higher education to working nurses in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The programme allows nurses to study part-time, while they continue to work and earn a full-time salary. Implementation of the ANS programme is the result of a partnership agreement between AKU and the governments (Ministries of Education and Health) of the three countries and participating health care institutions in the government, private and NGO sectors.

Medical Student Wins First Position in Public Speaking Competition



Salman Fasih Khan, AKU medical student of the Class of 2005, won the first prize at the Annual Public Speaking Competition – 2001, organised by the English Speaking Union of Pakistan (ESUP) in collaboration with the British Council. Sixty-seven speakers representing 33 educational institutions competed for the coveted prizes. The second and third prizes were won by Ali Asghar Moiz of Karachi Grammar School and Mariam Mamsa of the L'Ecole respectively.

The first two position holders will represent Pakistan in the international public speaking competition to be held in London this May.

When Salman was asked how he finds the time from his busy schedule to participate in public speaking, he said, "Public speaking happens all the time ... it's something we practise in our daily classrooms during presentations; in this way I get plenty of experience, and the opportunity to rehearse as well as enjoy my hobby."

Dr. Philippe Frossard Heads Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences

Dr. Philippe Frossard joined AKU on April 2, 2001, as Professor and Chair of the newly-established Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences. This department has been formed with the merger of the Basic Science departments of Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology and Pharmacology.

Dr. Frossard's professional career spans over 20 years, during which he has held several senior positions in education, research and clinical service and academic administration in France, USA and UAE. He also has more than 150 publications to his credit.

His last position was that of Professor and Deputy Chairman, Department of Pathology, at Al-Ain University, UAE. Dr. Frossard obtained his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry and Molecular Biology and post-doctoral fellowships in Respiratory Physiology and Biological Chemistry from Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France. He also pursued a medical fellowship in Human Genetics from the University of Michigan Medical Centre, USA.



Faculty Honours

Professor Rabia Hussain First Pakistani Scientist Receives Third World Academy of Sciences Award

Dr. Rabia Hussain, the Ghulamali Hirji Professor and Chair of Microbiology at the Aga Khan University, recently became the first Pakistani to receive the prestigious Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) award in Basic Medical Sciences for the year 2000, for her outstanding research contributions in the area of immunity to infectious diseases.

TWAS is an autonomous international organisation, founded in 1983 in Trieste, Italy, under the leadership of the late Pakistani Nobel laureate in Physics, Dr. Abdus Salam. Representing the best scientific minds in the developing world, it aims to support and promote scientific capacity and excellence for sustainable development in the third world. The TWAS Awards in Basic Sciences are conferred upon scientists from developing countries for excellence in scientific research that contributes significantly to the advancement of the basic sciences.



The contributions for which Dr. Hussain has been cited by TWAS are "Immunology of Infectious Diseases with special reference to classes and subclasses of antibody recognition in filariasis, tuberculosis and leprosy patients." These studies have led to more than 85 publications in journals of international repute. Commenting on this singular accolade, Dr. Rabia Hussain said, "The TWAS award has tremendous significance for me, as it recognizes the work conducted in my homeland, that nurtured me and provided me with the opportunity to develop the necessary skills. I feel very gratified that I can bring honour in some small way to my country. Although, I have been researching for more than 30 years and have received several international awards and honours, I always felt that there was nothing unique or special about them, as the research was carried out in the developed world with unlimited resources."

Professor Hussain is also the recipient of Tamgha-e-Imtiaz from the Government of Pakistan for her pioneering research in the early diagnosis and pathogenesis of leprosy and tuberculosis. These research studies serve as a role model for investigations into similar infectious diseases for scientists in Pakistan and throughout the developing world.

Dr. Hussain is a member of international agencies such as the World Health Organization, and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathology, UK. She is an elected Council member of the International Society for Infectious Diseases.

President of Pakistan Honours AKU Faculty with Prestigious Civil Awards



Dr. Amin Suria, Professor of Pharmacology, received the prestigious civil award, Sitara-e-Imtiaz. Dr. Suria joined AKU in 1983 as one of the first faculty members of the Medical College. He is internationally recognized for his many scientific contributions, most notably for elucidating the mechanisms of action of the benzodiazepine class of drugs. Commenting on his scientific successes, Dr. Suria said with his signature bluntness that "there is no limit to what a person can do provided he or she does not care who gets the credit."

Dr. Muhammad Anwar Waqar, the Akbarali Bandcali Professor and Chair of Biochemistry, was the recipient of Sitara-e-Imtiaz. Dr. Waqar joined AKU in 1986 to head the Biochemistry Department. He has been a leading figure in the field of molecular biology for many years and is best known for his work in the area of DNA structure and function. Attributing his scientific inspiration to the revolution in DNA technology, Dr. Waqar says, "an understanding of molecular biology and nucleic acids sequencing offered an exciting new world of endless possibilities to me with far reaching consequences."



Dr. Anwar Gilani, Professor of Pharmacology, was awarded the Pride of Performance Award. Dr. Gilani joined AKU in 1986 as Senior Instructor and rose to become Professor in 1997. He has a wide range of research interests and has made breakthrough discoveries in the area of natural products pharmacology. While commenting on the motivations for his research, Dr. Gilani notes: "there is a need to explore our indigenous resources and develop a system where traditional and modern physicians can work together for better health care of non-affording patients, who comprise the majority of our country's population."

