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## Research Outlook : Issue 1, July 2004

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# Research Outlook

Aga Khan University

Research Office Newsletter

July 2004, Issue - 1

## Message from the Chair, URC



It gives me great pleasure to pen these words at the launch of the University Research Newsletter. This is a part of series of activities undertaken by the University Research Council (URC) and the Research Office in order to promote research at AKU. There is little doubt that research exemplified by sustained enquiry, knowledge creation, synthesis and application, is fundamental for the creation and sustenance of knowledge societies.

The recent report by the World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on  
...Contd. on Page 2

## Message from the President



One of the fundamental missions of the University is the promotion of research of the highest quality and standard, contributing to human knowledge and to the quality of life. Innovative discoveries in research are usually the result of passionate perseverance and commitment by talented and dedicated faculty. AKU facilitates this endeavour by providing an enabling environment, by building a solid infrastructure for research, and by recruiting faculty solely on merit. AKU has made and continues to make an impact at national and international level through its various academic programmes and is now increasingly exhibiting leadership in research.

The University Research Council is responsible for research policy and management and is gradually building up the University's research infrastructure and capacity through a planned and systematic approach. The University has invested in state-of-the-art facilities as part of its research strategy.

At the same time, encouraged by the Board of Trustees and dialogues in the faculty, multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approaches towards solving problems are being encouraged. They have many advantages; they combine knowledge and skills of various specialities and encourage holistic solutions. They promote synergy, enlarge research capacity, develop leadership and management for research, and expand mentorship.

Finally, realising its obligation to society by trying to be a role model for others and a catalyst for change, the University endeavours to influence public policy and help bring about a qualitative change in the lives of citizens through dissemination of the products of research. Indeed, this would also be a criterion to gauge the impact of our research. I compliment the Research Office for taking the initiative of launching this newsletter and hope that it becomes a useful means to update the entire AKU community about new developments in research and their impact on AKU and beyond.

Dr. Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, H.I.,S.I.

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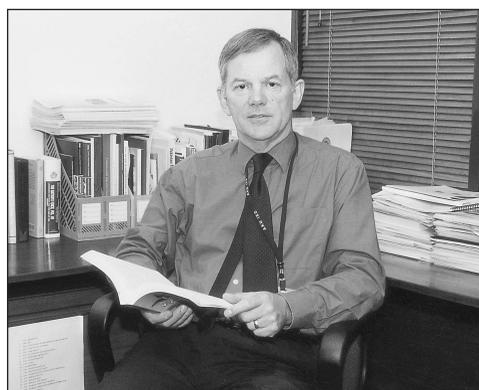
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From the Editor's Desk

## Message from the Acting Provost



I am delighted that the Research Office has taken the initiative to bring out a newsletter and would like to congratulate Dr. Anwar Siddiqui and his colleagues for their efforts. Strong and innovative research is an essential characteristic of a major university, and this research

effort needs to be multistranded. Some projects will be oriented towards bench research in the basic sciences, while others will be fieldbased or grounded in participatory action. All need to be carefully conducted and reviewed to ensure

...Contd. on Page 2

# University Research Award

The Academic Council, upon recommendation of the University Research Council, has supported the institution of a pan University Research Award, designed to encourage individual achievement and to contribute to the development of a strong research culture at AKU.

The award is open to full-time members of faculty (of all ranks). Exceptionally, it could be shared with a student who had worked closely with the faculty member concerned and had made an equal contribution to the research. Part-time faculty members can be considered, provided the research in question has been carried out under AKU auspices. Although the award would not be made to a group, it could exceptionally be shared between a small number of named individuals who had worked in the same field together. The work to be recognised should have been conducted primarily at units of AKU. Interdisciplinary work will be considered on a par with other types of research. A member of Faculty would only be able to gain the award once in three years. This award will not necessarily be given annually i.e. if there is no suitable candidate for this award, it would not be given for that year.

Nominations would be made by chairs of departments (or Directors where no departmental structure exists). Those nominated would be required to submit a full list of publications, details of research projects completed and underway, and any other material that addresses the criteria given below. They would also be requested to provide their own commentary on their research achievements (subject to a word limit of 1000 words). Selection for the award would be made by a committee specially appointed by the Provost which may co-opt outside assessors.

## Award Criteria

A successful candidate for the award would in all cases have to score highly on items 1 and 2 to be selected but not necessarily on all of other items. It should be possible to recommend the award for an individual based on a single truly outstanding piece of research.

1. An outstanding track record of publications in the natural or social sciences or the humanities. In the case of colleagues working in the natural and clinical sciences this record would be attested to by publication in peer reviewed and indexed journals. For colleagues in the social sciences and humanities, equal consideration will be given to books, book chapters and articles in peer reviewed journals.
2. The impact of the research programme of an individual should be considered when recommending the award. It includes impact at all levels of policy, practice, application and knowledge development. Citation indices and "impact factor" analyses should be used with considerable caution, given the variability of these indicators across disciplines.
3. Solid evidence of:
  - (a) mentoring junior colleagues in research;
  - (b) training graduate and undergraduate students; and
  - (c) sharing expertise with colleagues for organizational capacity building.
4. A track record of securing research grants as principal investigator.
5. Productive research collaboration at local, national and international levels.
6. Demonstrable leadership within national and international research organizations, and within the University.
7. Evidence of recognition of research by professional bodies, society and government.
8. Any other evidence of contribution to research.

The monetary value of the award will be the same as given for the "Excellence in Teaching Award".

An announcement will be made each year with respect to the modalities of implementation and the last date for submission of applications.

....Contd. from Page 1

## Message from the Acting Provost

that high standards of scholarly rigour and integrity are maintained; universities themselves are the major guarantors of these standards and their reputation in the wider world derives from their adherence to them.

AKU collectively has been giving a great deal of thought in the last few months to the question of promoting a research culture. Some of the steps that we need to take are institutional, for example keeping under review the procedures for awarding grants by the University Research Council and the recent decision to create a University Research Award. Others are

more to do with the climate of expectations of ourselves and our colleagues. Senior faculty in leadership positions have a key role to play in developing a positive climate, but so do younger faculty members who have new ideas that they want to develop and fresh approaches to try. I hope that as part of these efforts the University Research Newsletter will be a forum for all members of the AKU academic community to contribute ideas and share experiences. AKU has some significant research achievements to its credit already but this can never be grounds for complacency.

*Dr. David Taylor*

....Contd. from Page 1

## Message from the Chair, URC

Macroeconomics in Health (2002) makes an emphatic plea for sustained investment in research for countries in order to make progress in health and development indicators. More recently the WHO has underscored the need for countries to support and strengthen their health research systems in order to address their public health needs and also harness the power of genomics and biotechnology for economic development. Universities and centres of learning will play a key role in this endeavour. Aga Khan University represents one of the most exciting and innovating institutions in the region and is actively involved in health sciences and education research. Its dynamic students

and faculty represent some of the best human capital in health sciences and education in the region. The URC has been entrusted with the task of overseeing the growth and development of research at AKU and aims to do so by a process of advocacy, core funding for multidisciplinary research and capacity development. This research newsletter will be a regular feature in this process and will serve to inform faculty on research activities and opportunities for funding. Dr. Anwar Siddiqui and his team at the Research Office must be congratulated for bringing out this first issue, which will become a regular Research Office feature.

*Dr. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutta*

# Grant Winners

The University Research Council (URC) funds several projects proposed by AKU researchers per year. Funding for projects is normally considered in December for the first cycle and June for

the second cycle. The Grants Review Committee (GRC) is tasked with reviewing and short-listing proposals for URC approval. URC grant awardees for the years 2003 and 2004 are as follows (all figures stated are in US dollars):

<i>Awardees of URC Grants</i>	
2003	Dr. Mehnaz Atiq (Paediatrics - \$45,100); Dr. Rumina Hasan (Pathology & Microbiology - \$36,250); Dr. Wasim Jafri (Medicine - \$36,166); Dr. Philippe Frossard (BBS - \$25,000); Mr. Abdul Kareem Khan (PhD Student - \$24,700); Dr. Gauhar Afshan (Anaesthesiology - \$23,159); Dr. Camer Vellani (Medicine - \$22,950); Dr. Shama Munim (Obstetrics/Gynaecology - \$21,670); Dr. Uzma Shah (Paediatrics - \$19,200); Dr. Sohail Awan (Surgery - \$14,450); Dr. Hammad Ather (Surgery - \$11,800); Mr. Danish Saleheen (4th Year Medical Student, BBS - \$10,400); Dr. Hussain R Usman (CHS - \$8,100); Ms Tahira Ezra Reza (MSc Student, CHS - \$6,550); Dr. Rifat Rehmani (Medicine - \$5,945); Dr. Khurram Shahzad (MSc Student, CHS - \$3,615); Ms Faiza Ahmed (MSc Student, CHS - \$2,644).
2004 1st Cycle	Dr. Syed Ather Enam (Surgery - \$34,850); Ms Asho Ali (PhD Student - \$34,000); Dr. Shahab Abid (Medicine - \$30,085); Dr. Bilal Iqbal (CHS - \$23,550); Dr. Philippe Frossard (BBS - \$21,700); Dr. Zafar Fatmi (CHS - \$9,045).
<i>Awardees of Seed Money Grants</i>	
2003	Dr. Ali Abbas Tayyebi (Pathology & Microbiology - \$10,000); Dr. Irfan ul Hassan Zaidi (Pathology & Microbiology - \$8,500); Dr. Samina Ismail (Anaesthesiology - \$8,165); Dr. Khurram Siddiqui (Surgery - \$6,358); Dr. Anjum Halai & Dr. Stephen Anderson (IED - \$4,968).
2004	Dr. Dileep Kumar Rohra (BBS - \$5,860); Ms Nasreen Hussain (CEL - \$4,649); Dr. John Retallick & Dr. Fauzia Shamim (IED - \$2,680).
<i>Awardees of External Grants</i>	
2003	Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta (Paediatrics - 1 grant from International Vaccine Institute, \$51,880 / 2 grants from Save the Children Fund, \$1,375,636 / 1 grant from Ministry of Women Development / 1 grant from Program in Applied Technology in Health, \$7,500 / 2 grants from Johns Hopkins University, \$359,058 / 1 grant from IDL Biotech Laboratories, \$4,000); Dr. Tazeen Jafar (CHS - 3 grants from Wellcome Trust Foundation, \$561,029); Ms Kausar Saeed Khan (CHS - Rockefeller Foundation, \$57,457); Dr. Fauzia Shamim (IED - European Commission through AKES,P \$53,000); Dr. Imtiaz Jehan (CHS - University of Alabama, Birmingham, \$36,519); Dr. Arshad Altaf (CHS - 1 grant from Save the Children Fund, \$7,775 / 1 grant from Proctor & Gamble, \$28,970 / 1 grant from World Health Organization, \$1,000); Drs. Muhammad Memon & Harcharan Pardhan (IED - Department for International Development, \$19,351); Dr. Rabia Hussain (Pathology & Microbiology - Pakistan Council for Science & Technology, \$13,901); Dr. Anita Kaniz Mehdi Zaidi (Paediatrics - WHO, \$9,230); Dr. S. Qamuruddin Nizami (Paediatrics - International Atomic Energy Agency, \$9,000); Dr. Naveed Zafar Janjua (CHS - WHO, \$7,570); Dr. Shahzad Mithani (IED - Learning for Life, \$4,929); Dr. John Retallick (IED - Asian Network of Training & Research Institution in Education Planning, \$3,000); Dr. Masood Kadir (CHS - Shirkat Gah, \$2,500).
2004	Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta (Paediatrics - Saving Newborn Lives, \$27,000); Dr. Babar Tasneem Shaikh (CHS - Aga Khan Foundation, Geneva, \$22,556); Ms Shama Dossa (CHS - Rozan, \$8,758).

For comprehensive information about each approved project please visit the Funded Projects Database on the Research Office website <http://intranet/research>

Any faculty member, staff or student, including clinical fellow and resident, is eligible to apply for URC grant funding. However, URC strongly encourages researchers to actively pursue funding from external sources for their grants and counseled that eligibility for URC funding will depend on:

Principal Investigator (PI)'s satisfactory conclusion of the project and submission of the final project report; PI's track record in conducting quality research; and demonstrable evidence of approach to external agencies for funding his/ her project.

URC encourages departments to devise a system to pre-review grant applications before submitting to the GRC so as to screen out those grants which are incomplete and/or not up to the desired quality.

“... the University must continue to expand its programmes of research. The true sign of maturity and excellence in a university is its ability to contribute to the knowledge of mankind, in its own society and beyond. It is equally essential that its faculty be challenged, as a matter of university policy, to expand the boundaries of human knowledge ...”

His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan - Chancellor of Aga Khan University

# News, Resources and Events

## Multi-disciplinary Research Seminars

The University Research Council has endorsed a series of multi-disciplinary seminars during 2004 - 2005 to promote multi-disciplinary research with the aim of enhancing collaboration and partnerships across departments, and strengthening linkages with non-AKU partner institutes. It is hoped that these seminars will generate new ideas for research and bring together people, within and outside AKU, who are interested in specific research topics.

The format of the seminar will include presentations by faculty from different departments involved in research in the subject area, followed by open discussion.

All faculty and staff are invited to attend and participate in discussion. Students, especially graduate students and clinical trainees are strongly encouraged to attend.

The schedule, topics, co-ordinators and moderators for each of these seminars will be announced by the Research Office/Conference Secretariat in due course.

The first seminar in the series on the topic "Perinatal and Newborn Care in Pakistan" was held on January 20, 2004. The co-ordinator for this seminar was Professor, Dr. Zulfiqar Bhutta and the moderator was Dr. Iqtidar Khan, Professor of Paediatrics and Director, Neonatal Services, AKU-MC. Presentations were given by Drs. Zulfiqar Bhutta, Rozina Karmaliani, Sarah Saleem and Nadeem Zuberi.

The second seminar was held on February 27 on "Breast Cancer". The co-ordinators were Drs. Shahid Pervez and Hammad Ather. Dr. Naeem Jafferay, Professor of Pathology, Ex-Vice Chancellor, Ziauddin Medical University, was the Guest Chair. Presentations were made by Dr. Yasmin Burghari on "Epidemiology of Breast Cancer", Dr. Aryn Alidina on "Clinical Trials in Breast Cancer", Dr. Shahid Pervez on "Marker for Breast Cancer", Dr. Imrana Mansoor on "Role of Imaging in Localization of Lesion/ Stereotactic Biopsy", Dr. Lubna Noor on "Breast Conservation", and Ms Ann Castellino on "Quality of Care". The presentations were followed by a panel discussion chaired by Dr. Shaista Khan, Professor of Surgery.

The next seminar on "Infectious Diseases: Tuberculosis" will be held in August 2004. The co-ordinator for this seminar is Dr. Rabia Hussain and the moderators are Drs. Saeed Hamid and Anita Zaidi. The date for this seminar will be announced in due course. For more information, please contact Jack Fernandes (ext. 4912) or Nazish Mohammad (ext. 4414).

## IACR Visit to Pakistan

The following members of the International Committee for Research (IACR) visited Karachi during March 21 - 24, 2004: Drs. Robert E. Black (Johns Hopkins University, USA), Ada Sue Hinshaw (University of Michigan, USA), Carl Corter (University of Toronto, Canada) and Janet Hemingway (Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK). IACR is an advisory committee for research at AKU and a standing committee of URC with diversified international membership. The Committee advises the University on research strategy and offers guidance on research related issues. The members actively interacted with the University leadership, faculty and students during their stay. They strongly encouraged the development of a research culture at AKU. The IACR has submitted a formal report of their visit which is presently being perused by the URC. If you would like a copy of the IACR report, please contact Joseph Menezes (ext. 4673).

## Workshops organised by the Research Office

*Manuscript Writing Workshops* - These workshops aim to improve the scientific writing skills of the participants.

*Proposal Writing Workshops* - These workshops introduce participants to various aspects of proposal writing. There are hands on tutorials for writing various parts of a proposal and relevant software as Endnote, EpiInfo, etc.

*Finding Extramural Funding Workshops* - These workshops cover topics such as how to search for extramural funding opportunities, funding agencies in focus, Community of Science database, expectations of granting agencies, concept paper writing and processing of extramural funding applications at AKU.

*EndNote Software* - These sessions introduce participants to the basic use of this software in organising references, searching remote databases, creating electronic libraries of references and creating bibliographies.

These workshops have been much appreciated by the participants. If you would like any of these workshops to be organised for your department, please contact the Research Office.



The Funded Projects Database is an online resource that provides access to information about research related and developmental projects undertaken at Aga Khan University since 1985. This comprehensive database to-date has information of over 450 projects, including completed projects and in-process research, funded by University Research Council, external sponsors and Seed Monies from the Faculty Research Development Award.

This database is user friendly and its built-in features of simple and advanced search, and keywords are designed to facilitate information retrieval based on your specific query. It can be accessed internally on AKU homepage or just type 'intranet/research' in the address bar. Please contact Rafique Meherali (ext. 4930) if you would like further information/assistance concerning the database.

## Ethical Review Committee

Dr. Rumina Hasan is the chair of the Ethical Review Committee (ERC). She has taken over from Dr. Asad Jameel Raja who has been transferred to Nairobi, Kenya, as Head of Surgery in the Aga Khan Hospital. The University is grateful to Dr. Raja for his effective stewardship of the committee during his chairship.

The University Research Council directed that a serving member on a departmental research committee cannot at the same time serve on the ERC. Also, ERC members should not be involved

in pre-screening of applications for ethical review due to conflict-of-interest concerns and in keeping with international ethical norms.

The Council encourages departments to have in place their own internal ethical review process for initial screening of grant applications prior to submitting to ERC and emphasised the importance of monitoring projects after approval is granted. If you would like to know more about the ERC, please contact Gulshan Kalani, ERC secretary (ext. 4880).

## Extramural Funding Support



### *An introduction to Community of Science*

Community of Science (COS) is the leading internet destination for scientists and scholars across all disciplines. It provides tools and services which are useful in seeking funding, promoting research and collaborating with experts and peers in specific fields. Some services accessible through COS workbench include:

- Promote your research with a COS Profile: Allows you to insert contents of your CV in your profile. Your profile will be accessible to anyone around the world through <http://myprofile.cos.com/login>
- COS Funding Opportunities: Allows you to search nearly 400,000 funding opportunities by funding agency, keywords, geographical region/country, etc.
- Identify experts and collaborators: Allows you to view the profile of, and contact any person who has a COS workbench.

For more information about the COS, please visit their web site: [www.cos.com](http://www.cos.com). If you need assistance on how to search / navigate the COS database, please contact Ambreen Mahmood (ext. 4926).

*For extramural funding opportunities please see page # 8.*

## Grant Budget Writing Tips

Rafique Meherali

Constructing a budget is often the most excruciating part of writing a grant proposal. Nevertheless, it is an essential component for any project proposal. Creating a budget compels you to make all of the detailed decisions which give your project the specificity which most funding agencies require. Consequently, thinking about and writing the budget is a task which should be undertaken relatively early in the grant-writing process. Consistency and justification are the hallmarks of a well-prepared budget.

Some tips to consider while preparing a project budget are as follows:

- Salaries for research staff should conform to AKU emoluments structure.
- Equipment to be procured should be of the type permitted by the sponsor.
- Consider requirements for additional space and equipment especially if new staff members are being hired.
- Present the budget in the format desired by granting agency.
- Check prices and computations carefully. Itemise the budget to include a budget narrative that justifies all budget categories especially salaries and supplies.
- Provide for sufficient resources to carry out the project effectively and within timeline.
- Identify audit, evaluation and dissemination costs separately.
- In a multi-year budget allow for yearly increase in cost of living, if acceptable to the sponsor.
- Consider requirements for additional space and equipment especially if new staff members are being hired.
- Check granting agency regulations for:
  - ✓ Salary support/ honorarium for PI;
  - ✓ Institutional overheads/ indirect costs;
  - ✓ Flexibility of transfer between expense categories;
  - ✓ Carry-over of funds from one period to another;
  - ✓ No-cost extension at end of grant period to complete project activities;
  - ✓ End of grant conditions - audit, unused funds, assets purchased with grant funds;
  - ✓ Exchange rates in case of foreign currency grants;
  - ✓ Recurring and non-recurring costs.

# Policies and Issues

## Guidelines for Authorship

The policy document on "Guidelines for Authorship" sets out clearly defined criteria and minimum requirements for authorship. This would be a useful reference for faculty, students, and researchers of this University to avoid and resolve disputes over attribution of academic credit; and to recognize respective rights and responsibility of each participant in a collaborative research and publication activity. This policy document should be reviewed in conjunction with the policy on "Ethics of Data Sharing and Data Ownership". The "Intellectual Property Rights" policy is currently under development and should also be referred to when finalised. Please contact the Research Office for a copy of the "Guidelines for Authorship" policy.

## AKU-FHS Policy Guidelines for Extramural Grant Funding

This policy document serves as a guide to researchers in preparing proposals for extramural funded research, administering sponsored research studies, and/or engaging in research involving human subjects. It also advises the researcher on necessary formalities to be completed from the University's side in cases where a contract is to be drawn up between a funding agency and principal investigator and to facilitate tracking by Research Office of proposals submitted to external agencies.

The University Research Council directed principal investigators to submit a copy of the progress report sent to the granting agency to the Research Office for record. Please contact the Research Office if you would like a copy of this document.

## Research Equipment Sharing with Clinical Lab

A number of Clinical Laboratory equipment currently for diagnosis purposes can potentially also be useful for research purposes. The Clinical Laboratory is willing to consider off-setting a proportion, which may be up to 40% of the current AKU charges, depending upon test and volume requested. Such cost reduction however, would not be available for projects funded by pharmaceutical agencies seeking promotion of their products. The Clinical Laboratory also agrees to share its equipment under certain conditions. The terms and conditions of sharing would be specified for individual equipment.

## Attention Principal Investigators!

Please remember to submit to the Research Office a *project progress report* in case of URC funded grants, and a copy of the project progress report submitted to extramural funding agencies.

Please remember to inform the Research Office of any publication/s emanating from the research project for official record and for updating the Funded Projects Database.

Upon request of the Principal Investigator, the project duration may be extended for 6 months at a time, provided there is no request for a cost extension.

## Matters under discussion at URC

*Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)* - The draft version of this policy document was earlier reviewed by URC and was circulated to departments for feedback. The IPR policy seeks to establish a clear and sound framework for the encouragement of invention, innovation, creative work and technological development. It sets out a framework for protecting the creative efforts of the University and its employees. The revised IPR policy document will be considered by the URC in due course.

*Statistical Support Unit (SSU)* - URC is looking into the feasibility to set up a virtual centre providing statistical support to facilitate qualitative and quantitative research. The main objective of setting up the SSU would be to assure that the statistical and other analyses done is of high quality so that when research proposals are submitted to funding agencies they stand a better chance of being approved.

*AKU Consultancy Policy Guidelines* - The Personnel Committee has prepared a draft of this policy and submitted the same to URC for comments. URC recently reviewed the draft policy guidelines and also considered CHS's experience with the piloting of these guidelines in the department since the past twelve months. URC's comments have been passed on to the Personnel Committee for review.

*Classification of Grants* - URC asked CHS and IED to trial the Australian definition for classification of activities applicable to research and development and based on their feedback, would then take a final decision whether to adopt this classification or not. If adopted, PIs would be responsible for classifying the grants based on this classification which recognises four types of activities applicable to R & D as follows: (1) *Pure Basic Research* - experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge for the advancement of knowledge; (2) *Strategic Basic Research* - Experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge for the solution of recognised practical problems; (3) *Applied Research* - Original work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge with a specific application in view; (4) *Experimental Development* - Systematic work, using existing knowledge gained from research or practical experience, that is directed to producing new materials, products or devices, to installing new processes, systems and services, or to improving substantially those already produced or installed.

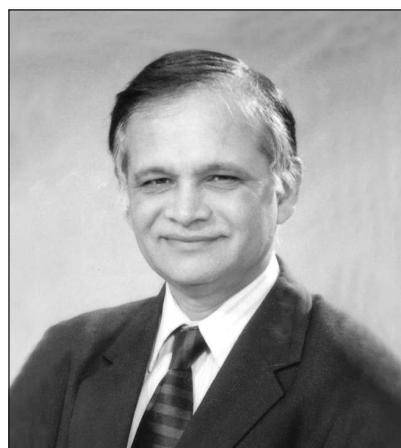
# Recommendations of the GRC Review Group

The University Research Council approved the recommendations of the GRC Review Group, chaired by Dr. Saeed Hamid, which was set up to examine the review process of applications for URC grant funding. *These recommendations will be implemented for the URC 2nd Cycle grant funding.* The recommendations pertain to areas such as: eligibility of applicants for GRC funding; the review process of grant applications; and identifying funding sources other than URC grants for small student grants, travel etc. The following are the salient features of the recommendations:

- o Undergraduate students cannot apply as 'Principal Investigator' or 'Co-investigator' as they cannot give a major time commitment to basic research. Instead, they will be designated as 'Trainee Investigators' if they wish to be involved in a project that allows them to learn various techniques of investigations.*
- o Master's students, clinical residents and fellows cannot apply for the main URC funding cycle. However, they can compete for the 'Graduate (Non-PhD) Student Research Fund' which is a fund to be set aside from the existing URC funds, initially of amount 30,000 USD per year, with a maximum of 3,000 USD funding allowed per grant application. Two cycles will be called per year with deadlines of April and October. The review process will be conducted by a sub group of GRC and completed within two months of the deadline for submission of grant applications.*
- o PhD students can apply for URC funding as first investigator.*
- o URC funds should be used as a springboard to help faculty get external funding and not used as a main source of funding especially by senior researchers.*
- o A Principal Investigator (PI) can re-apply for URC grant funding provided ONE YEAR has passed since the completion of the previously approved URC funded project. The track record of the PI would be a consideration when applying for a new URC grant. The completed project would have been evaluated for quality of research in terms of publications and presentations generated. (For spin-off studies resulting from the original study, a 'bridging grant' alternative is already available from URC funding).*
- o The AKU faculty in East-Africa and ISMC can also apply for URC grants and same terms and conditions will apply.*
- o Involvement of faculty in projects as Co-investigators should be clearly time defined, in terms of percentage of time that each co-investigator will spend on the project.*
- o Non Full Time Faculty cannot apply as Principal Investigators but may apply as Co-investigators.*
- o Hospital staff can apply for URC grant funding.*
- o There will be only two major funding cycles per year, with deadlines of December and June for submission of grant applications, as is currently practiced. The review process is to be completed within three months of the deadline for submission of grant applications.*
- o Applications that get poor review from both the reviewers i.e. a score of less than two, will not be discussed in the main GRC meeting and the Research Office will pre-screen these grants. However, if there is a gross discrepancy between the two reviewers, a third review will be automatically sought before the grant is presented to the GRC meeting.*
- o Re-submissions that require major changes (defined as major adjustments of study objectives, methodology, budget etc) will be considered in the next main grant review cycle itself. However, re-submissions with requests for minor changes (defined as clarifications, minor adjustments of study procedures, budget etc) will be dealt with by the Research Office alone, in conjunction with the Dean/ Director/ Chair of URC.*
- o Small travel grants should be applied for through sources other than URC, for example, the Dean's fund, FDA, departmental funds etc.*
- o A system of regular review and monitoring of on-going research projects, particularly those funded by URC, should be in place so that a regular annual report is provided to the URC.*
- o Each grant recipient should continue to regularly submit progress reports to the Research Office.*

## Extramural Funding Opportunities

<p>Title: HIV Therapeutics: Targeting Research Gaps Sponsor: Department of Health and Human Services and National Institute of Health Deadlines: September 01, 2004; January 02, 2005. URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/73150">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/73150</a></p>	<p>Title: International Fellowships Sponsor: American Association of University Women (AAUW) Educational Foundation Deadlines: December 01, 2004 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=21174">http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=21174</a></p>
<p>Title: Epilepsy Research Awards Program Sponsor: American Epilepsy Society Deadline: September 03, 2004 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/2602">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/2602</a></p>	<p>Title: Cancer Research Grants Sponsor: Pardee Foundation, Elsa U. Deadline: Continuous URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=3367">http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=3367</a></p>
<p>Title: Grants for Scientific Meetings in Developing Countries Sponsor: Third World Academy of Sciences - Meetings Deadline: December 01, 2004 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/14365">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/14365</a></p>	<p>Title: ELSI Regular Research Program (R01) – NHGRI Sponsor: NIH, DHHS &amp; NHGRI Deadlines: October 01, 2004 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=84193">http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=84193</a></p>
<p>Title: Major Research Grants Sponsor: Spencer Foundation - Research Programs Deadline: Continuous URL: <a href="http://www.spencer.org/programs/grants/major_grants.htm">http://www.spencer.org/programs/grants/major_grants.htm</a></p>	<p>Title: Grants from Monell Foundation Sponsor Monell Foundation, Ambrose Deadline: Continuous. URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=57002">http://fundingopps.cos.com/cgi-bin/getRec?id=57002</a></p>
<p>Title: Molecular Genetics of Drug Addiction Vulnerability Sponsor: Dept. of Health and Human Services, NIH, National Institute on Drug Abuse Deadline: October 01, 2004, February 01, 2005, June 01, 2005 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/80966">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/80966</a></p>	<p>Title: Established Investigator Awards Sponsor: LAM Foundation Deadline: September 01, 2004 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/58565">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/58565</a></p>
<p>Title: Basic and Preclinical Research on Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) Sponsor: Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health Deadline: October 01, 2004, February 01, 2005, June 01, 2005 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/72479">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/72479</a></p>	<p>Title: Role of Antioxidants in the Prevention of Diabetic Complications Sponsor: Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health (NIH) Deadline: October 01, 2004 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/63052">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/63052</a></p>
<p>Title: Small Grants Program Sponsor: American Academy of Implant Dentistry Research Foundation (AAIDRF) Deadline: August 01, 2004 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/748">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/748</a></p>	<p>Title: Dissemination and Implementation Research in Mental Health - NIMH Sponsor: Dept. of Health &amp; Human Services, NIH, NIMH Deadline: October 01, 2004, Feb. 01, 2005 June 01, 2005 URL: <a href="http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/72753">http://fundingopps.cos.com/alerts/72753</a></p>



### *From the Editor's Desk ...*

Dear Reader

Welcome to the first issue of 'Research Outlook', a newsletter published by the Research Office. This newsletter is part of our endeavours to be a facilitator of research and to keep the research community abreast of research related developments at AKU. I am grateful to the University Leadership, University Research Council, Grants Review Committee, Ethical Review Committee, and faculty-at-large for their continued support of the Research Office. As with any assignment of such magnitude, teamwork is *sinè qua non* for success. This quality was amply exemplified by the Research Office staff whose enthusiasm and efforts made possible the publication of this newsletter.

Please visit our homepage (<http://www.aku.edu/res-office/index.shtml>) for more information about the University-wide role of the Research Office and its staff.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful. If you have any suggestions on how we can further improve the newsletter please call extension 4414 or just send us an email ([research.office@aku.edu](mailto:research.office@aku.edu)).

*Dr. Anwar Ali Siddiqui*