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Message from Dr Muhammad Tariq, Interim Associate Dean, Education



The recent pandemic has led to a unique and challenging situation for university academics. Globally educationists are struggling to determine ways of engaging students with course work in an online environment. While virtual learning has many advantages it comes with challenges for clinical teaching where many skills cannot be taught remotely. There is a similar concern for ensuring validity and reliability of the assessment.

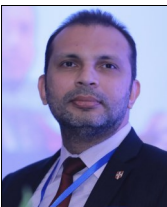
Facing a pandemic is a once in a lifetime situation, both for faculty and students. To share and keep all abreast with the current knowledge of COVID-19 as well as pandemics in general, a very successful online course titled COVINAR was hosted jointly by DED, DCPE and Dean's Office, Medical College with over 5000 registrations.

The aim of this course was to empower the health care professionals to meet the current health care challenge most effectively.

For effective functioning in times of pandemic and later too, DED has introduced 5 tips, a series of concise tips for health care professionals.

In order to maintain the continuum of educational processes, a monthly MCQ review with Medical College and SONAM has been taken to virtual platform. On July 4, 2020, we will be hosting the first Virtual Mega Question Review and look forward to your usual participation. We will also be sharing our schedule of online Faculty Development Workshops and Virtual Grand Rounds very soon.

Faculty in Focus



Dr Naveed Yousuf joined the DED in 2008. Currently, he is Assistant Professor, DED and Associate Director, Assessment and Research at AKU-EB. He also serves as Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee, FHS and Chair, UGME Assessment Review Committee.

He obtained PhD in Medical Education, specializing in Assessment Psychometrics, in 2014. At DED, he was instrumental in developing the Question Bank and initiated standardization, standard-setting and post-exam analysis of OSCEs. He leads quality assurance, psychometrics and research for AKU-EB's national high stakes assessments. He developed a competency model based on 21st Century Skills and outcomes-based assessment for EB students.

He has over 15 years of teaching and faculty development experience. His experience and interests are in curriculum development, assessment, educational research and leadership. He is faculty and thesis supervisor for Master of Health Professions Education Programme, AKU. He has several publications in books and indexed journals to his credit.

He is Project Director, Capacity Development Programme on Student Assessment for Balochistan Government funded by UNICEF and EU. He is also Advisor, Psychometrics for MRCGP International (South Asia) and member, International Association for Educational Assessment for developing international assessment standards.

Courses in HPE

Introductory Short Course in HPE | January 20-24, 2020:
Participants: 22 from AKU and other Medical and Nursing Universities.

Course Director: Dr Qamar Riaz
Coordinator, Dr Sana Saeed



**Master of Health Professions Education
ALC-Curriculum Development – Spring Semester 2020 |
January 27-31, 2020**

Participants: 28, Course Director: Dr Naveed Yousuf,
Course Co Director: Dr Qamar Riaz



**ALC-Programme Evaluation – Spring Semester 2020 |
February 03– 08, 2020**

Participants: 24, Course Director: Dr Muhammad Tariq
Course Co Director: Dr Shazia Babar, Dr Amber Sultan



**ARC-Quantitative Research Methodologies – Spring
Semester 2020 | March 9-15, 2020**

Participants: 26, Course Director: Dr Sonia Haider
Course Co Director: Dr Shazia Babar
Course Coordinator: Dr Sara Shakil



Thesis Research Proposal Presentation | February 25, 2020

- Dr Ambreen Surti, Bahria University Medical and Dental College, Karachi, Supervisor, Dr Sonia Haider.
- Dr Bushra Shirazi, SIUT, Karachi, Supervisor, Dr Rashida Ahmed, Co-Supervisor, Dr Qamar Riaz.
- Dr Samra Ayub, Rawalpindi Medical College, Supervisor, Dr Sonia Haider.

Continuous Faculty Development Programme in Health Professions Education

Let's Spark Curiosity and Passion for Learning: Effective Use of Team based Learning | February 21, 2020:

The workshop was facilitated by Drs Azam Afzal, Amber Sultan and Sara Shakil. It was attended by 19 participants.



Education Grand Rounds

January 15, 2020: Dr Azam Afzal, Senior Instructor, DED & Medicine presented on *"Student Engagement: In the Class & Beyond"*, which was followed by an expert panel discussion and Q&A session.

Panelists for the session were Dr Ayesha Mian, Dean of Students, Dr Azam Afzal, Ms Khairunnisa Ajani, Assistant Dean, SONAM and Mr Muhammad Ibrahim Habib (5th Year MBBS Student) AKU.



Examination Cell-DED

January to April, 2020: The Examination Cell conducted Monthly Question Reviews for UGME, PGME and SONAM programmes at AKU. Total pre hoc reviews: 18 and post hoc reviews: 16. Mr Karim Rehmani conducted a session for MScN students of SONAM, AKU on the Administration of Assessment.

COVINAR: An Update on the Treatment and Management of COVID-19 Patients

April 20-30, 2020: A 6 days course was conducted by DED in collaboration with Department of Continuing Professional Education (DCPE) and Dean's Office, Medical College.

COVINAR is the first ever biggest online course with over 5000 registrations conducted by the AKU Pakistan.

Course Directors: Dr Adil Haider, Dean, Medical College
Dr Muhammad Tariq, Interim Associate Dean, Education
Dr Natasha Ali, Interim Associate Dean, Continuing Professional Education.

Dr Faisal Mahmood, Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, AKU.

All videos of the sessions are available at AKU Medical College, Pakistan Facebook page: www.facebook.com/watch/AKUMCPK/156702399093331/



5 Tips

5 Tips is a series of concise, practical and easy to use guide on different areas to empower the health care professionals to keep moving towards the achievement of their goals.

Here are some tips:

- Practicing and Coping with Social Distancing
- Keep The Spirit Alive Motivating healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Stress Management for our Super Heroes
- Simulate clinical experience using virtual patients
- Work From Home and Stay Productive
- A Little Appreciation Goes a Long Way
- Transitioning to E-learning During Social Distancing

For more details visit our website: <https://www.aku.edu/mcpk/ded/Pages/home.aspx>

Faculty & Staff Highlights

Our faculty and staff has actively participated in activities both nationally and internationally:

- **January 13, 2020:** Drs Amber Sultan and Rahila Ali conducted a workshop on *“Engaging Millennial Students Through Flipped Classroom”* for 08 participants in collaboration with Drs Kulsoom Ghias and Sadia Fatima, Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences, AKU.



- **February 19-20, 2020:** Dr Tabassum Zehra presented a poster on *“Measures of Effective Clinical Supervision: Testing the Skill based Model for Effective Clinical Supervision (SMECS) for Multi Dimensionality”* at the 18th Annual Innovations in Medical Education Conference, Los Angeles, USA.
- **February 29-March 04, 2020:** Drs Azam Afzal and Shazia Babar conducted the workshop on *“Script Concordance Items for reflective clinician reasoning skills: a construction primer”*, and presented a poster and conducted the workshop on *“Measuring Cognitive Load in Health Professions Education: Piloting and Validation”*. Drs Rahila Ali and Amber Sultan presented poster online on *“Constructing Effective One Best MCQ”* at Ottawa Conference, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



- **April 20-30, 2020:** Drs Shazia Babar, Javeria Rehman and Sara Shakil attended the online course on COVINAR conducted by DED, DCPE and Dean's Office, Medical College, AKU.

Upcoming DED Events

- **July 04, 2020:** 1st Virtual (14th Annual) Mega Question Review to Enhance the Reliability and Validity of Assessments at FHS-AKU, Karachi.

Transitioning to Online Learning in the Age of Social Distancing

Due to closure of campuses in response to the coronavirus, many educators will be teaching remotely for the first time. Here are some best practices to consider

1. Planning & Preparation of courses

- The SAMR (Substitute, Augment, Modify, and Redefine) model outlines how educators can use technology to transition curricular content from in person to online.
- Decide how much (if any) of the course to change and mix synchronous and asynchronous learning.
- Any tool(s) chosen must be for educational reasons, not simply because of it's availability.

2. Challenges & considerations to address

- Maintaining motivation and engagement is an issue for longer online courses.
- What technologies are in place; what works well for mass education, what doesn't?
- Can the system / bandwidth cope with live teaching, streaming etc?
- Do teachers and students know how to use the systems or do they require faculty development?

3. Discussion boards and online discussions

- Use discussion boards to post questions for student critical thinking. Make sure to set an end time for students to respond.
- Encourage students to respond to other students comments and post questions to move the discussion forward.
- Check with your institution to see if they have WebEx, Google Classroom, Zoom, MS Teams or any other virtual meeting platform.

4. Motivation & engagement to optimize online learning

- Require students to complete quizzes prior to class, thus ensuring required content has been read.
- Get students to drive the class and speak to the clarification of the content that they have read.
- Identify and address at-risk or half-hearted students using the adaptive quizzes and provide continuous feedback to learners.

5. Practical & Clinical teaching

- Virtual patient simulators provide a safe virtual environment for medical students and physicians to cultivate Clinical diagnostic skills.
- Software for simulating biological systems allow students to simulate laboratory experiments as well as learn about the effects of standard medical interventions.

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