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Message from Dr Muhammad Tariq, Interim Associate Dean, Education



Dear friends and colleagues, I hope you are keeping well in these unprecedented and difficult times of COVID 19.

'Never stop learning because life never stops teaching', I will use this quote to sum up how each one of us moved out of our comfort zones, adopted and adapted innovative strategies to facilitate and streamline transition to online education at AKU.

While this year we have witnessed many disruptions we at DED are working to ensure continuity of our educational, research and development activities. We have continued to provide educational support at its best, be it monthly question review, mega question review, development of educational resources to facilitate faculty like 5 Tips, moving to virtual MHPE courses, workshops and education grand rounds.

I am delighted to say that online participation has been remarkable in terms of quality and number of people who have been able to connect through the virtual platform. We are very hopeful that when normality returns we will continue to provide opportunities of participation via both face to face and online platforms.

We will be hosting the 4th Annual Research Day (virtual) on November 27, 2020; a large number of educational abstracts have been received and I look forward to see the usual enthusiastic participation at this event.

It is my pleasure to share that the Aga Khan University signed an agreement with the Umbrella Consortium for Assessment Networks (UCAN) - the world's largest network of exam supervisors, supported by the non-profit Institute for Communication and Assessment Research. This partnership will enable the Faculty of Health Sciences to advance its examinations and assessments, hence greatly enhance the quality of medical education.

I will leave you with the thought of "what can we do to move further"? Let's get-together and continue to come up with innovative ways of engaging students and ensuring quality learning and assessments. We can develop more collaborative forums to ensure quality education and safety of our students

Faculty in Focus



Dr Shazia Babar is working as a Senior Instructor jointly in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and DED at AKU-MC since March 2013.

She obtained her MBBS degree from Sindh Medical College and completed her Masters in Health Professions Education (MHPE) from first Batch of Dow University

for Health Sciences in 2012. She has more than 16 years' of experience in areas of teaching and faculty development. She is the lead person for the development, standard setting, pre-hoc and post-hoc reviews of all Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), in the Undergraduate Medical Education (MBBS Programme) and SONAM (School of Nursing and Midwifery) at AKU.

She is the DED educational resource person in Year 4 MBBS Curriculum Committee and member of various other committees of institution, DED and OBGYN. At the graduate level, she is the Programme Coordinator for the Master of Health Professions Education Programme.

She is also the Course Co-Director for the Advanced Level Course on Assessment I, Advanced Level Course on Program Evaluation and Additional Required Course on Quantitative Research, in the MHPE Programme.

She is a MHPE thesis Supervisor as well as Internal examiner. She has conducted workshops internationally on "Script Concordance Items" and "Script Concordance Items for

Reflective Clinician Reasoning Skills: a construction primer," at the Ottawa 2018, Abu Dhabi and 2020 (Malaysia) Conferences. She has also been instrumental in the development and implementation of workplace-based assessment in fetomaternal fellowship programs in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

She has also been invited as a panelist, education expert, invited faculty, presenter, and external examiner by various educational institutions and conferences nationally. Her area of interest is assessment, mentoring and cognitive load theory.

Critical Care Course for COVID19

May 04-15, 2020: A 4 days online course was conducted by Departments of Anesthesiology, Medicine, Continuing Professional Education and Educational Development.

Course Directors: Drs Muhammad Sohaib, Amber Sabeen, Asad Latif, AKU and Dr Farjad Sultan, Dr Ruth K M Pfau Civil Hospital, Karachi.

All videos of the sessions are available at Aga Khan University YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCO-pBwoHI40sZFtRhKI-Blw/search?query=critical+care+course>



COVINAR II (An Update on Treatment and Management of COVID 19 Patients)

September 07-16, 2020: After the successful and positive feedback of COVINAR I DED in collaboration with Department of Continuing Professional Education and Dean's Office, Medical College conducted COVINAR II (online) course for 4 days and 1259 registrations were received.

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 YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOpBwoHI40sZFtRhKI-Blw/videos>

5 Tips

DED continues to create a high performance culture and ensure easy access to standardized material for the entire AKU family. DED is pleased to release a series of concise, practical and easy to use '5 Tips' on most common areas in Health Profession Education. These 5 tips will now be available on our website too. The goal of these series is to provide user friendly and easy access to standardized, updated and current information with links to further readings.

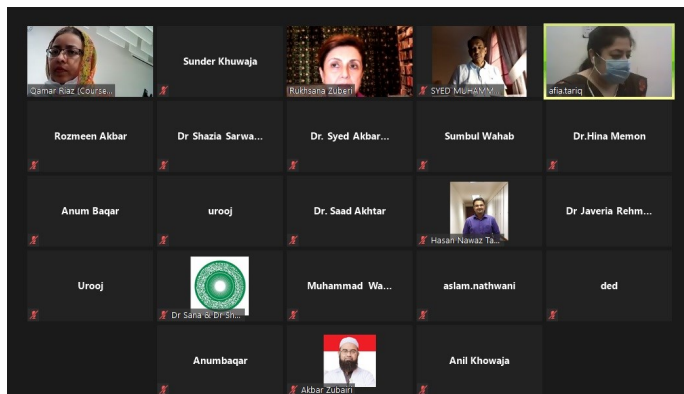
These are in addition to the 7 TIPS on various COVID19 related topics, which are already available on DED website. Hope the upcoming "5 Tips series" will serve as a valuable resource for AKU.

September 30, 2020: One Best Answer MCQ (Multiple Choice Questions)

For more 5 Tips visit our website: <https://www.aku.edu/mcpk/ded/Pages/home.aspx>

Courses in HPE

1st Virtual Introductory Short Course in HPE | August 05-11, 2020: 16 participants from AKU and other Medical and Nursing institutions. Course Director: Dr Qamar Riaz
Coordinator: Dr Sana Saeed



Master of Health Professions Education

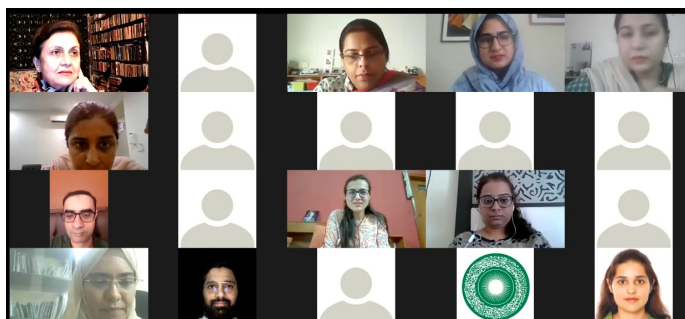
Virtual WEBINAR Open Day

May 06, 2020: 86 participants attended the session.

June 10, 2020: 30 participants attended the session.

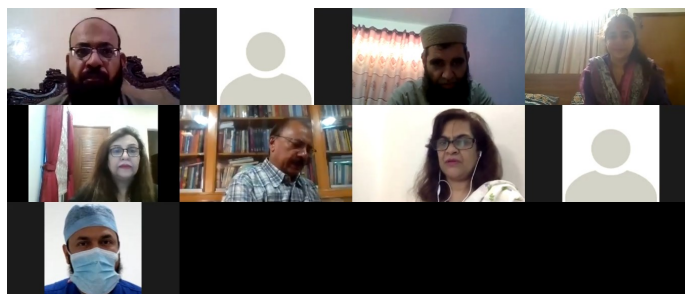
- **Advanced Level Course on Teaching & Learning August 17-22, 2020:** Total participants were 18. Course Director, Dr Azam Afzal, Coordinator, Dr Rahila Ali.

August 24-28, 2020: Total participants were 17. Course Director, Dr Azam Afzal, Coordinator, Dr Rahila Ali.



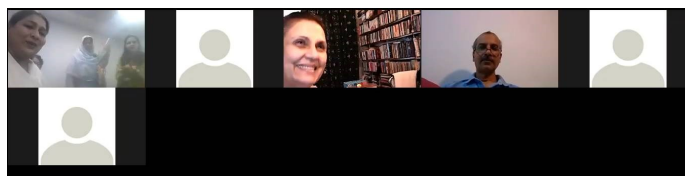
- **Additional Required Course Qualitative Research Methodologies | September 14-18, 2020**

Total participants were 25. Course Director, Dr Tazeen Ali, Co-Director, Dr Sonia Haider, Coordinator, Dr Qamar Riaz.



Theses Defense | September 09, 2020

Our MHPE student Dr Rahat Naz, Head, HR & Admin, Jinnah Sindh Medical University, Karachi successfully defended the thesis.



1st Virtual (14th Annual) Mega Question Review

July 04, 2020: The Annual Mega Question Review was held to enhance the Reliability and Validity of Assessment at FHS-AKU, Karachi. The review was planned for UGME, PGME and SONAM programmes to facilitate review of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs), Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), Short Answer Questions (SAQs) and Extended Matching Questions (EMQs). The chief guests of the event were Dr Adil Haider, Dean Medical College and Dr Rozina Karmaliani, Dean, SONAM.

- 233 faculty members participated (Medical College: 181, SONAM: 39, IED: 02, AKU-EB: 04 and from East Africa: 07).
- Question accepted: MCQs / EMQs: 504, SAQs: 27, OSCEs: 06.



Examination Cell

The Examination Cell conducts Question Reviews on a monthly basis and pre hoc and post hoc analysis before and after each exam for UGME, PGME and SONAM programmes. May to September, 2020 total pre hoc reviews: 68, total post hoc reviews: 22.

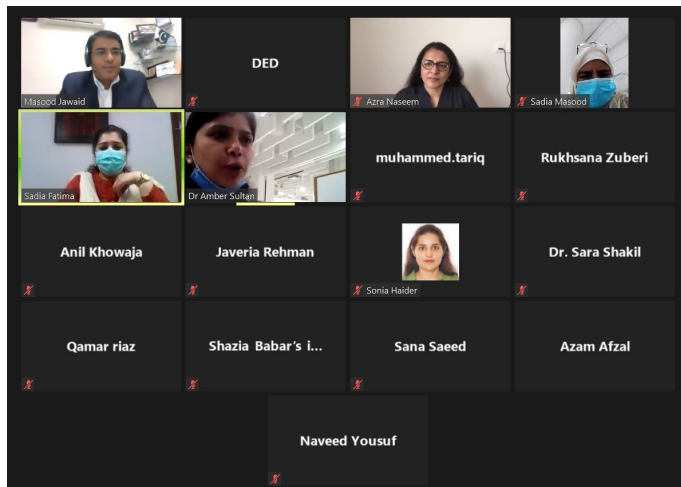
June 12, 2020: AKU-MC conducted first ever online examination. Watch full video how it was done.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=747906112709282>

1st Virtual Education Grand Rounds

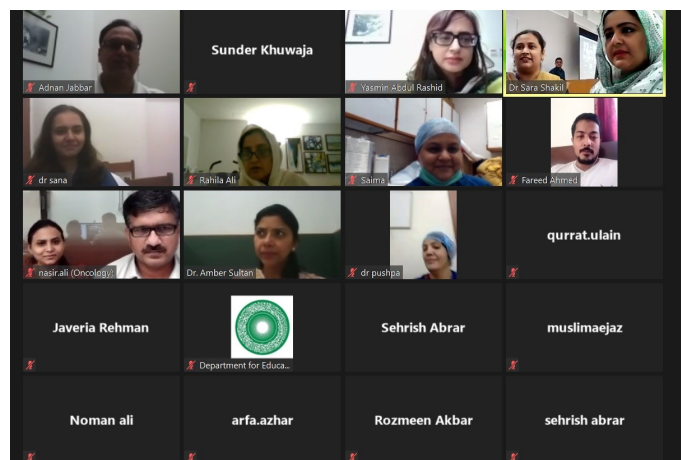
September 23, 2020: Dr Masood Jawaid, Associate Editor, Pakistan Journal of Medical Science presented on "Online Education: A different paradigm", which was attended by 80 participants and followed by an expert panel discussion and Q&A session.

Panelists for the session were Drs Masood Jawaid, Sadia Fatima, Assistant Professor, Biological & Biomedical Sciences, Sadia Masood, Assistant Professor, Medicine, Azam Afzal, Senior Instructor, DED, Azra Naseem, Associate Director, IED, AKU.



Continuous Faculty Development Programme in Health Professions Education

1st Virtual Workshop Constructing Effective One Best MCQ
September 10, 2020: The workshop was facilitated by Drs Rahila Ali, Amber Sultan, Sara Shakil and Javeria Rehman. It was attended by 15 participants.



Faculty & Staff Highlights

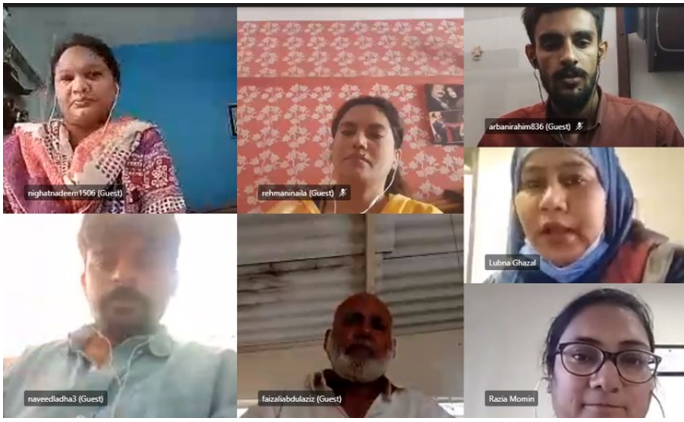
Our faculty and staff has actively participated in activities both nationally and internationally:

- **May 19-21, 2020:** Drs Azam Afzal and Waseem Suleman conducted online workshop for year Curriculum Committee faculty members on "Using VLE and Developing interactive presentations on HP5".
- **May 31, 2020:** Dr Shazia Babar was invited as panelist for Webinar on "Online Medical Education: Experiences and Challenges, Episode 1 Teaching Practices" organized by Enterprise for Medical Education and Research.
- **July 25, 2020:** Dr Azam Afzal was invited speaker for "Webinar on Simulation Based Education" organized by University of Lahore.
- **August 24-26, 2020:** Dr Naveed Yousuf was invited as a panelist for a session on "Experiential STEM Learning for the 21st Century: How to Assess the Impact?" for the First International Virtual Science Journalism Forum. More than 700 participants from 81 countries attended the event.
- **September 07-09, 2020:** Dr Muhammad Tariq attended AMEE Virtual Conference and presented paper on "Strengthening the feedback culture in a Postgraduate Residency Program".
- **September 19-20, 2020:** Karim Rehmani, Ali Karim Anwar, Moiz Galmani and Malika Lalwani invigilated in PGME Admission Test AKU 2020 conducted at Karachi, Hyderabad and Islamabad centres.

Standardized Patient Bank

The Standardized Patient Bank was established by the DED -AKU in 2001 for teaching, learning and assessment in the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Currently the SP Bank at AKU has 100 registered simulated patients and 5 real patients. This SP Bank strengthens the curriculum by introducing students to clinical and communication skills from the very beginning of the curriculum as novice students need a safe environment to learn, make mistakes and practice these skills, before they apply these skills on real patients. The use of SPs is very convenient since it provides cases according to educational needs at the time and place they are needed. DED has arranged and trained their SPs for Virtual Clinical Skills sessions for MBBS Year I and II and for School of Nursing & Midwifery exams conducted on MS Teams / Zoom for the first time at AKU.





Awards and Recognitions

July 2020: Dr Rahila Ali was awarded Fellow of the Higher Education Academy with the UK Higher Education Academy through participation in the AKU Teaching Enhancement Accredited Certification of the Higher Education Academy, Continuous Professional Development scheme.

Publications

- Muhammad Tariq, Sundus Iqbal, Sonia Ijaz Haider, Aamir Abbas, Using the cognitive apprenticeship model to identify learning strategies that learners view as effective in ward rounds, August 2020, Postgraduate Medical Journal.
- Sonia Ijaz Haider, Khalid Masood Gondol, Muhammad Tariq, Muhammad Furqan Bari and Iqbal Azam, Reliability and Validity of WATCH: Warwick Assessment Instrument for Clinical Teaching Journal of the College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan August 2020, Vol. 30(6): 633-637633.

Upcoming DED Events

November 25-27, 2020: 4th Educational Research Day.

December 16, 2020: Faculty Development Workshop on OSCE Development.

December 21-25, 2020: Introductory Short Course in Health Professions Education.

February 08-12, 2021: Additional Required Course on Issues in HPE.

February 15-20, 2021: Advanced Level Course on Leadership in HPE.

March 29 - April 02, 2021: Graduate Level Course on Cognitive Psychology.

Open Book Examination

By Dr Javeria Rehman

An open book exam (OBE) is a kind of assessment method that allows students to refer to approved open resources while attempting the examination. The design of OBE is aimed towards testing higher order thinking of the students which involves problem solving and critical thinking. The format encourages application of knowledge in a critical and analytical way rather than "rote-memorization" and mere transfer of information from book to the answer sheet.

Types of OBE: Depending on the resources, OBE can be of restricted and unrestricted type. The restricted type allows the students to consult only limited resources approved by the course faculty. This type is mainly true for printed material resource without any kind of personal notes and are more likely to serve the purpose of appendices to the exam itself.

The unrestricted type offers a wide range of unlimited resources including the web to be utilized by the examinee. However, when designed efficiently, OBE questions cannot be answered by simply looking up for them from unlimited resources.

Impact: Like any other assessment, the OBE format has a strong impact on teaching and learning strategies for faculty and students.

Key Considerations for Designing an OBE: According to the literature, following are some key considerations for devising questions for an OBE:

1. Types of Questions: Whether SAQs, MCQs, EMQs, it must assess application of knowledge/concept and **NOT** the recall. They should assess the ability of students to interpret, apply, analyze, evaluate and synthesize given information.

2. Development of Questions: The questions should be clear and unambiguous to avoid students' confusion and should **NOT** be readily available/searchable in resources. Use of Socratic questions will be helpful, for example, questions requiring clarification, assumption, justification, evidence, implication, opinion etc. It is preferable to use case-based questions or triggering scenario to assess higher-order thinking skills such as critical thinking and problem solving.

3. Resources: The OBE should encourage students to effectively utilize the resources to translate the needed information but **NOT** to simply transfer it from resources to answer book. The resources may include text-books, class notes, e-books, internet or any permitted material.

4. Proctoring and duration: OBE may or may not be proctored, can be taken live (in-class or online) or can be administered as take-home assignments. Although sufficiently time-bound, the duration of OBE may be longer than the traditional closed book format.

5. Faculty and students training: Training of faculty in devising efficient and effective OBE as well as training of students in terms of preparing and attempting such exam format while utilizing the resources in time constrained environment, is a challenge but essential.

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- A GUIDE FOR ACADEMICS - OPEN BOOK EXAMS. Available from: https://www.newcastle.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/268980/Open-Book-Exams.pdf
- Mohanan, K. P. (1997). Open book examinations. Retrieved from the National University. Available from: <http://www.iiserpune.ac.in/~mohanan/educ/openbook.pdf>
- Durning, S. J., Dong, T., Ratcliffe, T., Schuwirth, L., Artino, A. R., Boulet, J. R., & Eva, K. (2016). Comparing open-book and closed-book examinations: a systematic review. *Academic Medicine*, 91(4), 583-599.