

Editorial: Evolution of Immunology as a discipline in Pakistan.

Prof. Dr. Rabia Hussain, Patron, PSI



Recognizing immunology as a core discipline in Pakistan has come a long way since 1980's when it was considered a small component of Pathology and was taught as such in Medical schools while there were no research programs in mechanistic or basic Immunology even at the university level. Immunology has been recognized as a discipline in the last 20 years through the efforts of a core of dedicated scientists. This was facilitated by the recognition of the need for immunology as an essential feature in clinical medicine for the diagnosis and management of infectious diseases, auto-immunity, immune deficiencies, and allergies. The need to develop immunology research-oriented programs came much earlier in hospitals especially the well-endowed private hospitals which recognized the need to develop research programs in this new and emerging discipline. Among the more successful programs was one established by Prof Dr. Rabia Hussain at The Aga Khan University in Immunology of mycobacterial and parasitic disease which laid the foundation of quality research in Immunology in both basic and clinical Immunology research through funding from WHO, Institute Strengthening Grant the first ever given in Pakistan. In fact, their programs played a pivotal role in the COVID pandemic reinforcing the need to have such nuclei of excellence. This program was recognized both Internationally by The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) by awarding the TWAS prize for Basic Sciences and by the Government of Pakistan conferring Civilian awards of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz and Sitara-e-Imtiaz to Professor Rabia Hussain. This program resulted in several research leaders including Professor Zahra Hasan and Professor Najeeha Talat who are now playing a lead role in promoting Immunology and developing the next tier of leadership. The Army medical college was also spearheading a quality program in clinical Immunology with Brig (r) Dr. Tahir Aziz Ahmed (Sitar-e-Imtiaz, military) at Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Rawalpindi in playing a pioneering role and laying the foundation for clinical fellowship training programs in clinical Immunology. This has contributed tremendously to the rational treatment of immunological diseases such as autoimmunity, allergy, and immune deficiency diseases in Pakistan. He also established a Transplant Immunology lab at AFIP and SIUT. There are several other programs worth mentioning that have contributed to the evolution of clinical Immunology in Pakistan such as Prof Ghazala Jaffery (Services Institute of Medical Sciences Lahore), Prof Rana Muzaffar and Prof. Naqi Zafar's (Clinical Immunology and Transplant Immunology, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation), Dr. Osman Yusuf (Department of Allergy and Clinical Immunology at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Islamabad, and the Allergy and Asthma Institute, Pakistan), Prof Nadeem Afzal (University of Health Sciences, Lahore) and upcoming research programs of Dr. Talat Roomi at DUHS to mention a few. The most promising aspect of these programs is the development of the training of the next tier of leadership which will go a long way toward developing a critical core of Immunologists. We still lack a critical core of Immunologist but we are working towards this path.

With the expansion of Immunology research in Pakistan, some of the pioneer members felt it was high time to establish an independent Immunology Society. Pakistan Society for Immunology (PSI) came into existence in 2011 and with the great effort of the pioneer members with particular credit to Dr. Sabiha Anis, was registered in 2013 as an independent component of Pakistan Societies of Pathology. In 2018, PSI became a member of the International union of immunological societies connecting with the international network of immunologists. PSI holds scientific meetings annually and is providing an immensely useful platform for the training of young scientists.



Brig (r) Dr. Tahir, past president PSI



Prof Rana, president PSI



Prof Ghazala, past vice President PSI



Dr. Sabiha, Gen. Secretary PSI



Brig (r), Dr. Mukarram, vice president, PSI



Dr. Khawar Abbas, Sec finance, PSI

Pakistan society for immunology (PSI) was created in 2011 by doctors with their heart and souls in Immunology. They were Prof Rabia Hussain, Brig (retd). Dr. Tahir Aziz Ahmed, Prof Rana Muzaffar and Dr Sabiha Anis.

In 2012, during its first scientific meeting other practitioners joined in as the founding members. They were Dr. Osman Yusuf, Prof Ghazala Jaffery, Prof Nadeem Afzal, Prof Zahra Hassan, Brig (retd) Dr. Mukarram, Dr. Nighat, and Lt.Col. Dr. Hamid Nawaz Tipu. In 2012, PSI was formally registered and the number of members gradually increased over the years.

Dr. Sabiha Anis

Council Members

Pakistan Society for Immunology (PSI) (2012-2016)

Patron	Prof Rabia Hussain
President	Brig. Dr. Tahir Aziz Ahmed
Vice president	Prof. Dr. Ghazala Jaffery
Secretary	Dr Sabiha Anis
Treasurer	Prof. Dr. Rana Muzaffar

Pakistan Society for Immunology (2017-2022)

Patron	Prof Rabia Hussain
President	Prof Rana Muzaffar
Vice president	Brig Dr Mukarram Bashir
Secretary	Dr Sabiha Anis
Treasurer	Dr Khawar Abbas

PSI members

Lifetime	1. Dr. Rabia Hussain
	2. Dr. Tahir Aziz Ahmed
	3. Dr. Rana Muzaffar
	4. Dr Sabiha Anis
	5. Dr. Ghazala Jaffery
	6. Dr. Mukarram Bashir
	7. Dr. Hamid Nawaz Tipu
	8. Dr Osman Yusuf
	9. Dr. Nighat Naqi
	10. Dr. Nadeem Afzal
	11. Dr. Zahra Hassan
	12. Dr Khawar Abbas
	13. Dr Salma Batool
	14. Dr Mirza Naqi Zafar
	15. Dr. Omair Riaz
	16. Dr. Saeed Khan
	17. Dr. Aiysha Abid
	18. Dr. Sadaf Firasat
	19. Dr. Abdul Qadeer
	20. Dr. Shahid Abbas
	21. Dr. Dawood Ahmad
	22. Dr. Najeeha Talat
	23. Dr. Junaid Iqbal
	24. Dr Wajiha Musharraf
	25. Dr. Dr. Tahir Shamsi
	26. Dr. Sabahat Sarfaraz
	27. Dr. Talat Roome
	28. Dr. Kiran Iqbal
	29. Dr. Fatima Kanani
	30. Dr. Sarah Waqar
	31. Dr. Faheem Shehzad
	32. Dr. Mehjabeen Imam
Regular	33. Dr. Ali Raza
	34. Dr. Romeeza
Associate	35. Dr. Samreen Soomro
	36. Saania Abid
	37. Ghousia Ahmed
	38. Anam Razzak
	39. Sabahat Aziz
	40. Perbhat Ali
	41. Dr Fatima Fasih
	42. Hamid Hamdan
	43. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar
	44. Tayyaba Shahid
	45. Dr. Ghulam Sarwar
	46. Tehreem Naz
	47. Maria Rashid
	48. Nida Khalid
	49. Anwarul Haq
	50. Razia Ahmed
	51. Shariq
	52. Fakhra Hina

HIGHLIGHTS OF PSI EVENTS

November 2011: Immunology workshop: Clinical Utility of Immunofluorescence assays at 35th Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists at Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, Karachi, Pakistan.



December 2012: 36th Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists/1st joint conference of societies, Armed Forces Institute of Pakistan and Conventional center Islamabad, Pakistan.



December 2013: 37th Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists/2nd joint conference of societies, Lahore, Pakistan.



April 2014: Seminar and Workshop: Allergies; Issues and Solutions at Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, Karachi, Pakistan.



October 2015, CME: Immunology Workshops at Dow University of Health Sciences, Karachi Pakistan.



CME Lecture
"Cell Signaling of Innate Immune System"
A Joint Collaboration of
**Pakistan Society for Immunology &
 Dow University of Health Sciences**

Pakistan Society for Immunology (PSI) in collaboration with Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) is organizing a one day CME-Session on "Cell Signaling of Innate Immune System". The aim of this CME session is to provide the basic knowledge of molecular biology techniques and their applications in the field of Immunology.

Training Methodology
 Training Methodology comprises of comprehensive lectures, experimental demonstrations and laboratory training sessions. The lectures will cover basic and advanced knowledge of innate immunity and new concepts of cell signaling in regulation of immune responses, moreover learning of molecular biology techniques that implement in the field of immunology.

Covering Areas

1. Innate immune system and its role against infection and inflammation
2. The new concept of cell signaling in regulation of immune responses
3. Experiment related to the induction of inflammation in mice model & isolation of mononuclear cells and microscopic analysis of immune cells

Who should attend?
 Medical graduates & postgraduates students, Research scholars, clinicians, and faculty members from field of Biological and Biomedical sciences are welcome to attend this CME session.

Venue: Lecture Hall 3, Department of Pathology, Dow International Medical College (DIMC), Dow Research Institute of Biotechnology and Biomedical Sciences (DRIBBS), Molecular Pathology, Dow Diagnostic Reference and Research Laboratory (DDRRL), Dow University of Health Sciences (Osha Campus), Karachi, Pakistan

Date: Tuesday, 6th October, 2015
Time: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Coordinator: (DUHS)
 Dr. Talat Rameez

Facilitators:
 Prof. Dr. Talat Marza, DUHS
(Course Director)
 Prof. Dr. Shabana Sharadaf, DUHS
 Dr. Sabiha Anis, SIUT
 Dr. Talat Rameez, DUHS
 Dr. Saeed Khan, DUHS
 Dr. Mohsin Wajid, DUHS
 Dr. Zameer Khanzada, DUHS
 Ms. Anam Razaq, DUHS
 Ms. Prehmat Ali, DUHS
 Ms. Sabahat Anis, DUHS

The PSI is accredited by Pakistan Medical and Dental Association (PMDC) to provide continued medical education (CME) for physicians. The physician who will attend the full day workshop will earn 16 CME hours, all other participants will be awarded with the certificate of attendance. The scheduling of the whole workshop will also available to participants residing outside Karachi. International candidates may contact PSI secretariat for further inquiries.

Registration fees: Rs. 1000/- (Registration is must for CME certificate)

Contact details for registration:
 Dr. Talat Rameez, Office of Molecular Pathology, TLA building, DDRRL & Dept. of Pathology, DIMC
 Email: dimc.molecular@gmail.com
 Phone No.: 0313-2085515



October 2015, CME: Immunology Workshops at Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, Karachi Pakistan.

Pakistan Society for Immunology

WORKSHOP on
Molecular Tools
in Immunology

In Collaboration with
Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation

Date: Saturday, October 10, 2015 **Time:** 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

TOPICS

1. Manipulation of Genomic and Plasmid DNA in Molecular Biology Laboratory
2. DNA Sequencing: Principles and Applications
3. Gene Expression Analysis
4. Microarrays: Principles and Applications

The physicians who will attend the full day workshop will earn 1.0 CME credit. All other participants will be awarded with the certificate of attendance.

Registration is Free but Mandatory
Max number of participants: 25

Facilitators:
 Dr. Salma Batool, SIUT
 Prof. Zahra Hasan, AKU
 Dr. Talat Rameez, DUHS
 Dr. Aysha Abidi, SIUT
 Dr. Saeed Khan, DUHS
 Ms. Shazia Abidi, SIUT
 Ms. Ghousia Ahmed, SIUT
 Ms. Saania Inam, SIUT

Coordinators: Dr. Salma Batool, Dr. Khawar Abbas and Dr. Sabiha Anis

Venue: Hall-D, Hanifa Suleman Polywood Oncology Centre, SIUT

For further Details & Registration:
 UAN: 111 000 313, Ext: 2034, 2245
 Phone: (92-21) 32725543
 e-mail: psimembers2013@gmail.com, mblab@siut.org

Last date of Registration:
 October 06, 2015



December 2015: 38th Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists/3rd joint conference of societies, Lahore, Pakistan.



December 2016: 39th Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists/4th joint conference of societies, Peshawar, Pakistan.



December 2017: 40th Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists/5th joint conference of societies, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, Karachi, Pakistan.



December 2018: 41st Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists/6th joint conference of societies, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.



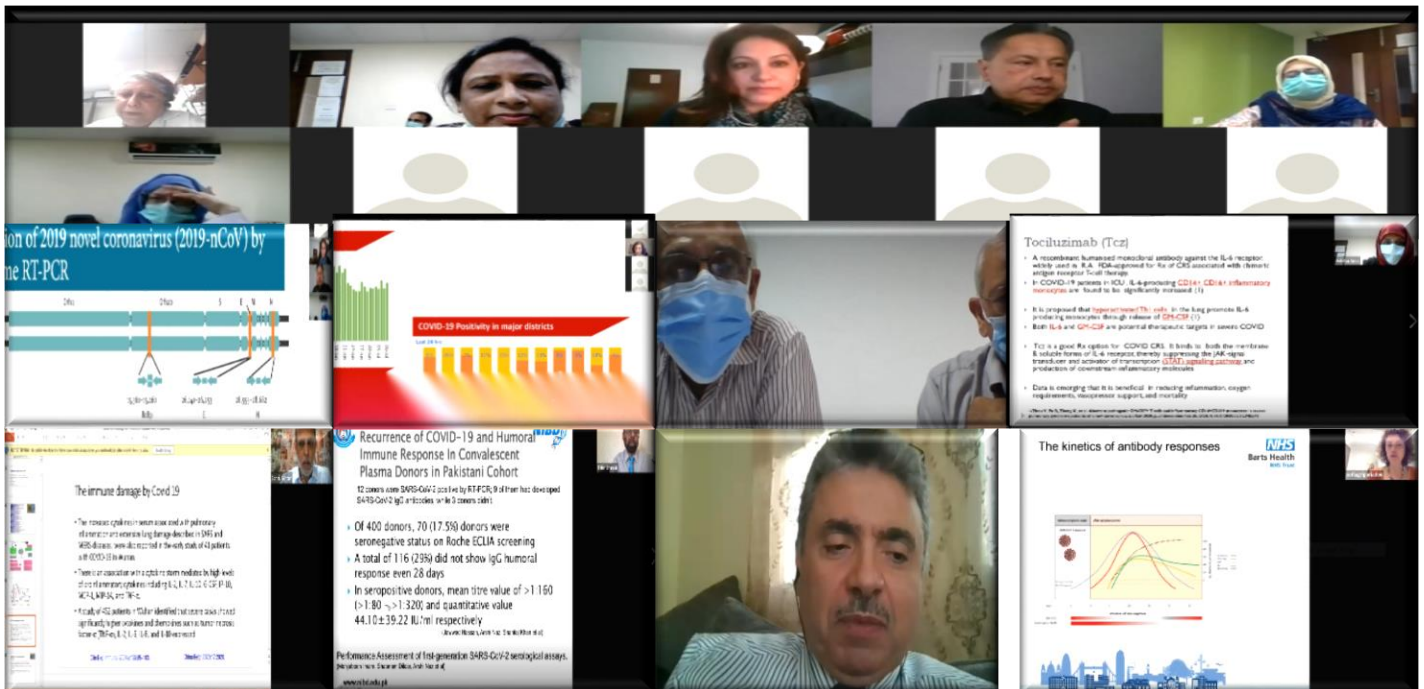
October 2019: 42nd Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists/7th joint conference of societies, Quetta Pakistan.



October 2019: 17th International Congress of Immunology, Beijing, China.



**July 2020: Sharing Experiences of Diagnosis and Management of COVID-19.
Joint Webinar Sessions Pakistan Society for Immunology & Association of Molecular Pathology Pakistan.**



**Commemoration: Prof. Dr. Tahir Shamsi,
a Lifetime member of PSI since 2019.**

By Dr. Mehjabeen Imam



Prof. Dr. Tahir Sultan Shamsi was a well-known clinical hematologist and a pioneer of clinical hematology, bone marrow transplantation, and hemeoncology services in Pakistan. He spearheaded the initiation of the fellowship program of clinical hematology at the College of physicians and surgeons, Pakistan (CPSP).

After doing his first bone marrow transplant in 1996, he worked tirelessly to establish a state-of-the-art facility by the name "The National Institute of Bone Marrow Transplantation and Blood Disorders (NIBD) in Karachi, Pakistan. He was a hope for numerous patients suffering from life-threatening blood disorders including thalassemia, hematological malignancies, and immune-mediated hematologic disorders. His deep interest in immunodeficiency disorders resulted in successful bone marrow transplantation in several such patients. He had a keen interest in research and was involved in several trials. He was actively involved in patient management and clinical trials during the peak Covid-19 era.

He was a great scholar and academician and started multiple training programs including clinical Pharmacy, Pediatric hemeoncology, and specialist training in bone marrow transplant to name a few. There are numerous research articles and books to his credit.

Above all, he was a great human being with a golden heart filled with compassion and kindness for the sufferers. He succumbed to a fatal brain hemorrhage and left us on 21st December 2021 for his highest abode. May Allah give him the highest place in Jannah.

Pakistan Society for Immunology (2023-2027)

Patron	<i>Prof Rabia Hussain</i>
President	<i>Lt.Col. Dr. Dawood Ahmed</i>
Vice president	<i>Dr. Khawar Abbas</i>
Secretary	<i>Lt.Col. Dr. Omair Riaz</i>
Treasurer	<i>Dr Wajiha Musharraf</i>

Contributors:

Mr. Hamid Hamdan.

Dr. Ali Raza.

Dr. Mehjabeen Imam.

Lt.Col. Dr. Omair Riaz

Dr. Sabiha Anis.

Prof. Dr. Rabia Hussain.

Upcoming events

- 43rd Annual Conference of Pakistan Association of Pathologists/8th Joint Conference of Societies: 25th-27th November 2022 at Pearl Continental Hotel (PC), Karachi.
Scientific Committee PSI Sessions: Pakistan Society for Immunology (PSI):
Dr. Sabiha Anis, Dr. Najeeha Iqbal, Lt. Col. Dr. Omair Riaz, Dr. Wajiha Musharraf, Dr. Sabahat Sarfaraz, Dr. Mehjabeen Imam, Dr. Aisha Abid, Dr. Salma Batool.
- The IUIS 2023 Congress: 27th November -2nd December 2023, Cape Town, South Africa. Abstract submission will open from January 2023.

Pakistan Society for Immunology

Department of Immunology, Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation, Karachi-74200,

TEL: 021-32725543, 021-99215718, ext.: 2034, 2245, Email: psimembers@gmail.com