

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF ALLIED HEALTH [OAH]



آغا خان یونیورسٹی

THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Dean's Message

Adil Haider

98 MBBS, MPH, FACS, FSIMP, FCPS (Hon.)

I am pleased to reflect on the accomplishments of the Office of Allied Health (OAH) over the past year. Leadership is not just about achieving milestones, but about continuously elevating the people, programs, and community that make up our institution. The work of the OAH has exemplified this spirit, and it continues to serve as a testament to the dedication, innovation, and resilience that define the Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) here at Aga Khan University.

This report is more than just a summary of activities and achievements, it is a celebration of how we, as a community, are advancing the future of healthcare education, practice, and research. From the development of a comprehensive framework for faculty criteria to the groundbreaking work in virtual learning environments, each initiative highlighted here reflects our commitment to creating an environment where our AHPs can thrive and make lasting impacts.

OAH has taken significant steps toward the future with standardized traineeship programs across 12 departments, the expansion of our research initiatives, and the launch of the Allied Health Alumni Network. These efforts not only improve education for current students but also keep alumni engaged, promoting a cycle of mentorship and growth. Also, it continues to elevate the profile of Allied Health professionals through initiatives like International Allied Health Professionals Day, where our departments collectively showcase how AHPs are bridging gaps, enhancing patient care, and shaping the future of healthcare.

As we move forward, I am deeply inspired by the innovation and collaboration displayed by the OAH team, faculty, students, and alumni. The challenges we face may be ever evolving, but the strength of our community, followed by our values of IQRA, will always guide us to new heights.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the OAH's remarkable progress this year.



A Year of Progress, A Future of Possibilities

Dr. Robyna Irshad Khan

Associate Dean Allied Health

As we welcome another year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the strides we have made at the Office of Allied Health (OAH). Progress isn't just about policies and programs, it's about the people who bring them to life. This past year, I have had the privilege of working alongside an incredibly dedicated team of faculty, staff, and trainees, and their passion for advancing Allied Health education and practice has been truly inspiring.

One of our major ongoing projects is developing a faculty criteria framework to support the academic and clinical growth of Allied Health Professionals. This is not just about setting guidelines, it's about paving the way for well-defined career pathways that recognize and reward expertise. In parallel, we have been working on strengthening our teaching practices, with workshops on Virtual Learning Environments and innovative assessment methods that give our educators practical tools to enhance student learning.

Another milestone is the standardization of traineeship programs across 12 departments. These structured programs ensure trainees receive high-quality, consistent training, setting them up for success as future healthcare professionals. The combined induction and certification ceremonies have also been a highlight, marking important transitions and celebrating achievements. On the research front, I am particularly proud to see allied health students and trainees actively engaging in scholarly work. Through the University Research Grant intervention program, students have contributed to publications and conferences, steps that will help shape their careers. Meanwhile, our Allied Health Curriculum Taskforce worked closely with national bodies to refine educational standards and ensure our programs remain forward-thinking and relevant.

Beyond academics and research, strengthening our community has been a key priority. The launch of the Allied Health Alumni Network is an exciting step toward keeping our graduates engaged, developing mentorship, and building long-term professional connections. And, of course, International Allied Health Professionals Day was a fantastic reminder of the impact AHPs have on healthcare every single day.

None of this would have been possible without the enthusiasm and commitment of our OAH family. Whether you are teaching, learning, researching, or supporting in the background, your contributions matter.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Let's keep pushing boundaries and shaping the future of allied health together!

Advancing Initiatives for Allied Health Faculty Development:

Faculty Criteria Development

The Office of Allied Health (OAH) successfully developed faculty criteria for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) at Aga Khan University, addressing their career progression and academic recognition. This comprehensive framework was created through a multi-phase process involving literature reviews, expert consultations, and a two-day retreat aligned with the academic medical centre approach.

The criteria established distinct academic and clinical tracks, promoting career growth in education, research, leadership, and interdisciplinary collaboration. It emphasizes qualifications, competency-based education, and skills in teaching, curriculum development, and knowledge management. The framework, awaiting the vice provost's approval, aims to strengthen allied health programs, enhance AHP visibility, and align with national and international

VLE Workshop

OAH conducted a two-day workshop titled "Designing Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) Program: From Learning to Developing," under the leadership of Dr Shelina Bhamani and a team of experts. Eleven participants from various departments attended.

The workshop addressed the professional practice gap in developing VLE courses tailored for AHPs. It provided faculty members with hands-on experience in creating interactive VLE content, utilizing appropriate technological tools, and ensuring accessibility for self-paced and collaborative learning. Key outcomes included capacity-building for faculty in designing specialized courses for allied health trainees and uploading these courses onto the AKU platform, thus addressing the unique educational needs of this group.

Assessment Workshop in Collaboration with DED

OAH continued its efforts with "Assessment in Allied Health Education Programs," a specialized continuing professional development workshop held on October 17, 2024. This program, led by Dr Syed Masood ul Hasan, in collaboration with Dr Shazia Babar and Dr Sana Saeed from the Department of Education Development, aimed to address the persistent challenges in implementing effective and standardized assessment practices.

Recognizing that many program handbooks outline detailed assessment frameworks but struggle with practical execution, the workshop brought together 20 participants to bridge this gap. Through engaging discussions and hands-on activities, participants explored themes such as the principles of assessment, workplace-based evaluation techniques, and methods to ensure reliability and fairness in grading.

This initiative complemented the previous efforts by focusing on assessments, a vital component of academic rigour. By empowering educators to refine their assessment strategies, the program emphasized the importance of aligning practice with accreditation standards, ensuring the continuous improvement of allied health education programs.



Academic Development

Standardization of the traineeship programs

Since its inception in 2022, the OAH has been working on standardizing the curriculum. Over the past two years, OAH has successfully transformed and standardized traineeship programs across all 12 departments. Program directors and their teams were trained and supported by OAH and worked on consolidated templates for program handbooks to ensure uniformity. These handbooks underwent rigorous peer review and approvals by AHEC and the Associate Dean.

The transition documents have a structured format and incorporate education principles to ensure effective teaching and assessment strategies are used. Details of the standardized programs are now accessible on the OAH webpage. This milestone reflects OAH's commitment to enhancing the quality and consistency of traineeship programs.



Student Initiative

Combined Induction Ceremony

On March 14, 2024, the Allied Health programs achieved a significant milestone with the inaugural combined Induction Ceremony for the Cohort of 2024. This event marked the formal welcome of over 50 allied health trainees as they embarked on their professional careers in healthcare.

The ceremony was attended by distinguished leaders, including Dr. Adil Haider, Dean of Medical College; Dr Asim Belgaumi, Chief Medical Officer; Dr Robyna Irshad Khan, Associate Dean of Allied Health; and various Program Directors, who underscored the importance of this occasion. This gathering highlighted the integral role of AHPs in advancing healthcare education and practice. It reinforced the commitment to foster excellence and innovation within the allied health programs, setting the foundation for the success of this promising new cohort.



Certification Ceremony

OAH is working towards enrollment and completing training at a uniform time point for all programs. As a first step towards it, on July 19, 2024, the institution proudly hosted the inaugural Certification Ceremony for the Allied Health Trainees of the 2023/2024 Cohort. This milestone event celebrated the achievements of 48 trainees who completed their training between December 2023 and June 2024 across eight departments. The ceremony was graced by esteemed leaders, including Dr Muhammed Tariq, Vice Dean of the Medical College, as the chief guest; Dr Farhat Abbas, CEO; Dr Asim Belgaumi, CMO; and all program directors.

The presence of trainees' families added a meaningful dimension to the event, emphasizing the collective effort behind their success. The ceremony's seamless execution was made possible through the leadership of Umer Ali, Chair of the Organizing Committee, and the unwavering support of Dr. Robyna Irshad Khan and the Allied Health team. This collective commitment not only underscores the institution's dedication to shaping the future of healthcare education but also fosters a culture of achievement and innovation among allied health trainees.



Research Development

Completion of Intervention of University Research Grants

The Office of Allied Health concluded its impactful study under the intramural University Research Grant, focusing on the skill development training program. Following the training and evaluation of the first cohort, the second cohort, comprising 25 participants from 12 departments, was recruited and marked the completion of the intervention.

A closing ceremony marked the program's culmination, celebrating the efforts and growth of both cohorts. Participants presented their research work during the event, showcasing the skills and knowledge gained through the thematic modules, including research attitude, academic writing, and mental health wellbeing. Their presentations highlighted the program's success in fostering academic and personal development among allied health students.



Scholarly Work: Allied Health Trainees and Staff

Publications:

1. Hameed, S., Aziz, B., Baig, P. et al. Normative values and factors affecting saphenous nerve responses in a south Asian population: a cross-sectional neurophysiological study at a tertiary care hospital in Pakistan. *BMC Neurol* 24, 413 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12883-024-03851-5>
2. Aziz B, Hameed S, Hakeem H, Rehman FU, Malik MGR, Sattar S, Baig P, Zuberi SI, Khan S. Oral and topical analgesia in pediatric electrodiagnostic studies. *Muscle Nerve*. 2024 Jul;70(1):111-119. doi: 10.1002/mus.28105. Epub 2024 May 8. PMID: 38717235.
3. Khan, F.M.A., Moiz, B., Rehman, J. et al. Advancing medical laboratory practice in Pakistan: insights from a focus group study on technologists' training needs. *BMC Med Educ* 24, 938 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12909-024-05836-x>
4. Siddiqui S, Irfan M. Consumer's Health Consciousness, Behavior, Knowledge, Attitude and Practices towards Dietary Habits among Young Adults of Karachi. *Pak J Public Health [Internet]*. 2024 Jun. 28 [cited 2025 Jan. 14];14(2):56-63. Available from: <https://pjph.org/pjph/article/view/1356>
5. Sana Farrukh, Shafquat Rozi, Shazia Taimoor et al. Assessment of Oral health-related quality of life and its associated factors in head and neck cancer survivors, within one year, post-cancer treatment. A cross-sectional study, 15 May 2023, PREPRINT (Version 1) available at Research Square <https://doi.org/10.21203/rs.3.rs-2889539/v1>
6. Yaqoob, H., Sadiq, A., Karim, M. et al. Instrument fracture in periodontal therapy: ethical disclosure and clinical management - a case report. *BMC Oral Health* 24, 585 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12903-024-04349-9>
7. Shams, M., Bhamani, S., Sheikh, S. ., Aslam, K., Rehman, A. ., & Raza, A. (2024). Exploring Oral Health Knowledge and Practices among Early Childhood Caregivers: A Cross-Sectional Survey. *Academy of Education and Social Sciences Review*, 4(2), 174–183. <https://doi.org/10.48112/aessr.v4i2.764>
8. Anwar N, Chundrigr Q, Awan S, Moatter T, Ali TS, Abdul Rasheed M, et al. (2024) Prevalence of high-risk human papillomavirus in oral squamous cell carcinoma with or without chewing habits. *PLoS ONE* 19(5): e0300354. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0300354>
9. Jafri L, Bilal M, Majid H, Ahmed S, Jamil A, Mateen S, Jahan F, Shah A, Khan A. P039: Establishing a rare registry for inherited metabolic disorders at the biochemical genetic lab in Pakistan: A decade of data. *Genetics in Medicine Open*. 2024 Jan 1;2.

Poster Presentations:

1. Senior Cancer Registrar Maham Zafar presented a poster at SKMCH titled “Navigating Disruptions: The Effect of COVID-19 on Cancer Registry Operations and Adaptive Strategies”
2. Trainee Radiographers Namra Zafar and Muhammad Nazir presented a poster “Impact of Mammographic Screening in Breast Cancer Detection” at the Intervention Radiology Society of Pakistan and Health Asia Conference 2024. They secured a prize at the Health Asia Conference 2024.
3. At the 9th AKU Annual Surgical Conference: Surgery in the Digital Era, dental hygiene interns Amna Sohail and Yashfa Inayat presented a poster titled "Impact of Oral Health Education by Dental Hygiene Students on the Oral Hygiene Knowledge, Attitude, and Practices of Caregivers/Parents and the Oral Health Status of Children with Special Needs: A Quasi-Experimental Study."
4. Iqra Ghazal, Abdul Qadir Jangda, and Dr Irfan Ahmed presented a poster titled “Development of Python Code for Patient-Specific QA: Ensuring Treatment Accuracy and Reproducibility via Log File Analysis” at the Third Middle East Society of Therapeutic Radiation Oncology (MESTRO) 2024 Congress at Al Faisal University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
5. Shahid Shakeel presented a poster Implementation and Execution of Point of Care Testing (POCT) Program in Four Secondary Care Hospitals Across Sindh-A LEAN Management Approach at the 15th Annual Conference of Chemical Pathology “Diagnostic Endocrinology: Recasting Clinical Care” Peshawar, Pakistan 22nd – 23rd November 2024.
6. Charge Technologist Azeema Jamil presented the following posters in the year 2024
 - A comprehensive retrospective analysis of biotinidase deficiency (BTD): clinical and biochemical profiles in patients. Abdul Mateen, Saba; Jamil, Azeema; Majid, Hafsa; Khan, Aysha Habib; Yousufzai, Nasir at the Symposium of the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism 2024 in Porto, Portugal.
 - Innovative biomarkers for precise diagnosis and effective monitoring of biotinidase (BT) deficiency. at the 15th Annual Conference of Chemical Pathology “Diagnostic Endocrinology: Recasting Clinical Care” Peshawar, Pakistan 22nd – 23rd November 2024.
 - A comprehensive retrospective analysis of alkaptonuria: clinical profiles and musculoskeletal manifestations in patients at the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) International Conference.
 - Evaluation of newborn screening program for Maple Syrup Urine Disease for optimization of amino acid ratio cutoffs: Experience from a single clinical chemistry laboratory at the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) International Conference in Dubai.
 - Characterize novel biochemical markers associated with Biotinidase deficiency (BTD) to improve diagnostic accuracy and disease monitoring at the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) International Symposium 2024.

7. Senior Technologist Nasir Ali was selected for a Poster Presentation “Prevalence of Canavan disease: a study from Pakistan.” at the 15th Annual Conference of Chemical Pathology “Diagnostic Endocrinology: Recasting Clinical Care” Peshawar, Pakistan.
8. Senior Technologist Nasir Ali presented Validating Urinary Orotic Acid through High-Pressure Liquid Chromatography (HPLC): Insights from a Specialized Biochemical Genetics Laboratory in Pakistan at the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) International Conference in Dubai.
9. Saba Abdul Mateen presented the following posters at the Symposium of the Society for the Study of Inborn Errors of Metabolism 2024 in Porto, Portugal.
 - Establishing a rare registry for inherited metabolic disorders at the biochemical genetic lab in Pakistan: a decade of data Abdul Mateen, Saba; Majid, Hafsa; Bilal Muhammad; Ahmed Sibtain; Jamil, Azeema; Jahan Farhat; Shah Akhtar; Habib, Aysha; Jafri, Lena.
 - Hyperoxaluria one of the organic aciduria screened of high-risk individuals at biochemical genetic laboratory Saba Abdul Mateen; Hafsa Majid; Azeema Jamil; Nasir Ali Khan; Sibtain Ahmed; Aysha Habib; Lena Jafri.
 - Clinical and biochemical manifestations of patients with isovaleric acidemia (IVA): experience from large tertiary care center of Pakistan Abdul Mateen, Saba; Ahmed, Sibtain; Habib, Aysha; Jamil, Azeema; Jafri, Lena.
 - Optimizing amino acid analysis: enhancing throughput and precision with advanced fluorescence detection on high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) Jafri, Dr Lena; Khan, Dr Aysha Habib; Jamil, Azeema; Mateen, Saba; Ahmed, Sibtain; Naeem, Hira; Majid, Dr Hafsa.
10. Saba Azeem from Pathology and Laboratory Medicine presented a poster at Aga Khan University World Quality Day, the poster was titled “Improving the efficiency of preanalytical processes to enhance patient safety in the Faisalabad region.”
11. Lab Technologist Hira Azeem presented a poster - Clinical and biochemical spectrum of propionic acidemia- experience from a biochemical genetics laboratory in Pakistan at the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) International Conference in Dubai.
12. Technologist Hira Azeem presented a poster Clinical and biochemical spectrum of propionic acidemia- experience from a biochemical genetics laboratory in Pakistan at the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) International Conference 2024 in Dubai.
13. Tahira Parveen, Senior Technologist presented the abstract Categorization of urea cycle disorders at the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) International Conference 2024 in Dubai and ChemCon – 2024 Peshawar.
14. Senior Technologist Nareen Bano presented a poster titled C-Peptide Performance Evaluation Electrochemiluminescence Immunoassay at the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) International Conference 2024 in Dubai.
15. Umer Ali and Faqeeha Shakeel from the Department of Pharmacy Services presented the poster “Leveling up the engagement and performance of residents: the impact of gamification in international pharmacy practice residency at Aga Khan University Hospital sessions and guest speakers” at the FIP World Congress, Cape Town 2024.

Oral Presentations:

1. Senior Cancer Registrar Maham Zafar was selected for an Oral Presentation “Unveiling Trends in Head and Neck Cancer Cases: An Insight from a Hospital-Based Cancer Registry” at the Department of Oncology, Aga Khan University Symposium 2024
2. Senior Cancer Registrar Maham Zafar’s work was selected for Oral Presentation at SKMCH - Impact of COVID-19 on the incidence rate of Screening-Detectable Cancers.
3. Dental Hygienist Shazia Taimoor presented the abstract “Outcomes of Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy on the Periodontal Status among Electronic Cigarette Smokers, Conventional Smokers, and Non-smokers” at the International Symposium of Dental Hygienists (ISDH) 2024 in Seoul, Korea.
4. Dental Hygienist Shazia Taimoor presented the abstract titled "Integration of Dental Hygiene Care for Pediatric Oncology Patients: Experience at a Tertiary Care Hospital in LMIC, A Quality Care Improvement Initiative" at the 2024 International Symposium of Dental Hygienists (ISDH) in Seoul, Korea.
5. ASDH Program Alumni Misbah Shams presented her study “Exploring Oral Health Knowledge and Practices among Early Childhood Caregivers, A Cross-Sectional Survey” at the International Symposium of Dental Hygienists (ISDH) in Seoul, Korea.
6. Alumna Alwina Ghazi presented the abstract titled “The Effect of Electronic and Conventional Smoking, and Non-Smoking on Periodontal Stage, Grade, and Distribution of Periodontal Diseases” at the 2024 International Symposium of Dental Hygienists (ISDH) in Seoul, Korea.

Collaboration and Networking

MNHSR&C and AHPC

Dr Robyna Irshad Khan chaired the Allied Health Curriculum Taskforce and played a pivotal role in developing a comprehensive framework for allied health education upon request from the Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination and Allied Health Professionals Council. The initiative outlined clear nomenclature and curriculum pathways across educational levels, including associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, emphasizing clinical practicum and flexible program transitions. Certification pathways and eligibility criteria were also defined, balancing inclusivity with professional standards. Key recommendations include standardized curricula and continuous professional development requirements for license renewal.



Reunion

Though the programs have been in place for more than three decades now, OAH hosted an inaugural reunion dinner for allied health trainees of all the programs. About 300 alumni from various organizations joined the event. It also served as a launch for the Allied Health Alumni Network. It will not only be a meet-and-greet platform but will also extend support for mentoring and accreditation support to the trainees and programs, respectively. The platform will allow current trainees to seek research and professional development guidance from industry leaders in their relevant disciplines.



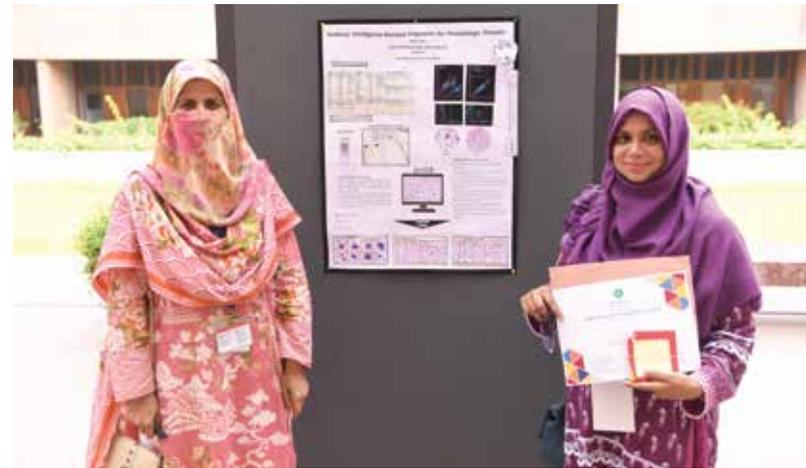
Elevating the Profile of Allied Health Professions

International Allied Health Professionals Day Celebration

The International Allied Health Professionals Day 2024 was celebrated with remarkable enthusiasm on October 14, 2024, under the unifying theme, “Allied Health Professionals: Bridging Gaps, Building Futures.” Bringing together over 250 AHPs, the event highlighted their pivotal contributions to healthcare and their role in shaping its future. The celebrations commenced with a delightful breakfast attended by Provost Dr Tania Bubela, providing an engaging start to a day filled with insightful discussions, creative expressions, and collaborative activities.

A key highlight of the day was the keynote address by Prof. Dr. Sumaira Farooqi, Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences at Ziauddin University. Her presentation explored the exciting potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in allied health, illustrating how emerging technologies can revolutionize patient care, streamline workflows, and empower professionals. Adding depth to the event was a thought-provoking panel discussion on “Breaking the Burnout Cycle: Resilience and Support for Allied Health Professionals.” Moderated by Dr Masood Hasan, the panel featured diverse voices, including Dr. Hadia Pasha (Director of Counselling and Wellness Services), Ms. Amina Lakhani (Senior Nurse Manager – Nursing Education Services), Mr Muhammad Mujeeb (Coordinator, Operating Room), and Ms Nadia Tahir (Trainee Technologist – Medical Laboratory). The panellists shared personal insights and evidence-based strategies to address burnout, promote resilience, and cultivate supportive workplace environments. The discussion gave participants practical tools and a renewed sense of community and purpose.

Creativity also took centre stage with an art competition on the theme, “Advancing AKU through Artificial Intelligence.” The competition saw 35 vibrant entries, reflecting the allied health community's innovative spirit and artistic talents. This creative engagement not only celebrated individual expression but also showcased how art and technology can intersect to envision a brighter future for healthcare. Departmental activities throughout the week added another layer of richness to the recognition of the AHPs, providing platforms for various teams to share their achievements, exchange ideas, and discuss pathways to advance their disciplines.



Allied Health Events by Departments

Department of Health Information and Management Systems [HIMS]

HIMS hosted a tea party to raise awareness for breast cancer promoting early detection and prevention of the disease. It included educational sessions highlighting the importance of self-examination, signs and symptoms, screening options and its importance. Survivors were invited to share their stories and inspire people to be able to fight the scary disease.

In recognition of the hard work of HIMS staff, the department celebrated HIMS Allied Health Week. Flyers were circulated to highlight the core work processes and the importance of coding and registry in audit, research, accurate communication and a sound basis for decision-making processes. Further, the department organized a workshop titled “Revolutionizing the Role of Allied Health Professionals in the Health Information Management System”. It aimed to emphasize the significant role medical coders play in the healthcare industry, provide background on ICD-10 CM/PCS, and discuss the importance of cancer registrars in today’s healthcare landscape, along with an understanding of key cancer data management processes.



Nutrition and Food Service Department [NFSD]

NFSD has been actively engaged in various impactful initiatives. They participated in the children's carnival, Choti Si Dunya, organized by the Oncology Department, with a counselling and game activity stall. In a Department of Medicine grand round, Dietitian Shihabuddin Saqib delivered an insightful session on enteral nutrition. A workshop on mindfulness in nutrition was conducted, highlighting the connection between mental well-being and dietary habits on the occasion of Allied Health Professionals Day. Additionally, the department collaborated with the Department of Endocrinology for a public awareness session on World Diabetes Day, emphasizing a balanced diet in diabetes management and prevention, and providing valuable insights and resources to the community.



Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Laboratories

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Clinical Laboratories, AKUH Organized the Medical Laboratory Appreciation Week from October 14 – 18 to recognize laboratory technologists' hard work and efforts. The department hosted multiple activities including debate competition, quiz, workshop and webinar to balance the academic and non-academic activities



Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation

The Department of Physiotherapy hosted a hands-on workshop for the Management of Spinal Dysfunctions on December 26th, 2024. The department has been actively involved in community outreach initiatives and has collaborated with the Department of Medicine and Human Resources for World Diabetes Day and Movember (Men's health issues) respectively. The aim was to help raise awareness about diseases and the role of physiotherapy in preventing them.

A significant achievement was the expansion of the Pelvic Rehabilitation Program, which now addresses both bowel and bladder issues in patients.

Department of Radiology

A delegation of radiologists, radiographers, and trainees participated in the Health Asia Conference and Intervention Radiology Society of Pakistan 2024.

The Department of Radiology hosted educational activities for the community and staff. As Pakistan's Breast Cancer statistics are alarming, the Department of Radiology hosted Breast Cancer Awareness Month, encouraging self-examination and screening for early detection and prevention. Further, a workshop focused on radiographers was organized on Allied Health Professions Day to emphasize the importance of protecting against radiation and minimizing exposure for patients and staff.



Department of Anaesthesiology, OR, and CSSD

The Department of Pathology and The Department of Anaesthesia engaged allied health specialities—Anesthesia Technicians, Central Sterile Services Department Technicians (CSSD), and Respiratory Therapists in skill enhancement and professional development. A workshop on Difficult Airway Management took place for anaesthesia technicians during Allied Health Professionals Week 2024. They also developed a VLE course on the basics of anaesthesia and conducted a simulation-based module. Their achievements include winning 1st prize in the poster competition at the Allied Health Symposium and organizing the 14th Annual CME on “Excellence in Obstetric Patient Care.”

CSSD hosted a workshop on "Practical Approaches to Sterile Field Management" and secured 3rd prize in the symposium's poster competition. Respiratory Therapy conducted a workshop on "Comprehensive Ventilation," bridging invasive, noninvasive, and innovative modalities, showcasing their commitment to advancing respiratory care.



Dental Hygiene Program

The Dental Hygiene Program continues its steadfast advocacy for community service through impactful outreach activities. World Oral Health Day (WOHD) 2024 was a highlight, with students reaching over 436 individuals within the AKU community, including patients, employees, students, and staff, emphasizing the importance of good oral hygiene. Alumna Sadaf Hameed led WOHD celebrations in Gilgit Baltistan, spreading awareness among school children and gaining recognition in FDI's 2024 activities.

In Karachi, ASDH students, interns, and staff visited public and private schools, engaging children and teachers in fun and educational oral care activities, and fostering lifelong healthy habits. In Collaboration with the Aga Khan Health Services Pakistan, outreach activities extended to boarding schools and underserved communities in Thatta. These efforts identified cases of fibrosis, early-stage oral cancer, and periodontitis, showcasing the program's commitment to improving community oral health.

The program also organized its 3rd Annual Continuing Dental Education (CDE) workshop, “Hygiene Highway: Bridging Oral Health”, on June 8, 2024. Attended by over 100 participants, the event focused on enhancing professional development through topics such as patient safety, error prevention, and the evolving role of dental hygienists. A panel discussion with alumni enriched the workshop, emphasizing the program's dedication to fostering knowledge and professional growth



Department of Medicine

The Department of Medicine, Section of Neurology hosted the 24th Annual Neurophysiology Certificate Course from 4th - 5th October 2024 in collaboration with CPE.

Department of Pediatric and Child Health

In 2024, the Paediatric Echocardiography team conducted several key educational activities. On August 7, they facilitated a Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) workshop at Aga Khan University Hospital, hosted by the Emergency Medicine Education and Research Global Exchange.

On August 17, a one-day Echocardiography Workshop was held at the Dr. Panjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research, University of Karachi, focusing on the application of echocardiography in basic research using small animals.

From November 9 to 30, a Paediatric Cardiology Skill-Based Course was organized at Aga Khan University Hospital, providing participants with advanced knowledge and skills in paediatric cardiology to handle complex cases.

Department of Radiation Oncology

Forum of Medical Physics:

The Forum of Medical Physics, under the Radiation Oncology Section, hosted an engaging Open House to introduce university students to the field of Medical Physics in Radiation Oncology. Students from Karachi University and NED University had the opportunity to explore career pathways, with presentations covering the field's scope, trends, and training programs. A guided tour of key department areas, including the treatment planning room and radiation therapy machines, was followed by Q&A sessions with professionals. The event concluded with a networking Hi-Tea, inspiring future medical physicists.

Forum of Radiation Therapy Technologists (RTT)

The RTT Forum organized an Open House for BS students aspiring to pursue careers in Radiation Therapy. The event included presentations on ensuring consistency in radiation therapy and optimizing immobilization devices. Students also participated in a Q&A session with professionals, gaining valuable insights into the field's emerging trends and advancements. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Asim Hafiz, leaving participants motivated to explore careers in Radiation Therapy.



Department of Ophthalmology

On November 1st, 2024, the Department of Ophthalmology hosted the Second Allied Eye Health Professionals Conference, featuring two distinguished keynote speakers: Prof. Michael Stewart, President of the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO), Professor and Chair Emeritus at Mayo Clinic – Florida and Prof. Muhammad Moin, Pro Vice Chancellor of King Edward Medical University and Principal of the College of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences. These esteemed experts shared invaluable insights from their international and national experiences, greatly

enriching the event. The conference was conducted in a hybrid format, fostering both in-person networking and interactions at Aga Khan Hospital's Karimabad and Clifton campuses, while also providing a virtual learning opportunity for staff at Aga Khan Hospital in Kenya.

The department has successfully launched a pilot training program aligned with IJCAHPO's curriculum and standards, earning high praise from professionals within the department. Encouraged by this achievement, plans are underway to introduce a comprehensive two-year training program in the future.



Department of Pharmacy Services

The Pharmacy residency programs made significant strides this year through various academic initiatives. The ASHP-IPPR program (Infrastructure and Research Projects) was presented at the International Medication Safety Conference held at Shaukat Khanum Hospital, Peshawar. Additionally, one of the residents highlighted key program reflections during the conference, representing the department and sharing insights. Research capacity-building remained a priority, with 10 residents completing the research and academic writing module, further strengthening their academic and investigative skills. Journal clubs were actively conducted by all residents, creating opportunities for critical appraisal and knowledge sharing.

The department launched the Pharmacy Quest initiative incorporating gamification elements such as badges, leaderboards, and certificates. This interactive competition tracked performance in the following domains: timely evaluations, mapping of evidence, worklists and reflections against Los, logged interventions, punctuality, case presentations, and other academic challenges. The initiative was a dynamic way to engage residents, track progress and enhance their learning experience.

A guest lecture series was introduced, to increase exposure to expert perspectives and specialized knowledge in pharmacy practice. Residents also participated in various key events throughout the year, including World Pharmacist Day, Antimicrobial Awareness Week, the Allied Health Alumni Dinner, the Allied Health Conference, JCI preparation and accreditation, and the inaugural Allied Health Certification Ceremony. These experiences provided valuable exposure to professional networking, collaboration, and recognition of achievements.



ASHP RESIDENT'S LEADERBOARD			
July to December - 2024			
Position	Resident	Points	Stars
1	Neha Imam	24	☆☆☆
1	Hania Sohail	24	☆☆☆
1	Saniya Yousuf	24	☆☆☆
2	Tooba Naz	21	☆☆☆
2	Amna Iqbal	21	☆☆☆
3	Umama Mateen	21	☆☆☆
3	Anshra Jewaid	17	☆☆☆
3	Fareha Khan	17	☆☆☆
3	Savera Hamid	17	☆☆☆
3	Aleeza Niaz	17	☆☆☆

ASHP Logo: American Society of Health-System Pharmacists