

**CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS : NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DENTAL EDUCATION
HELD ON 14-15TH NOVEMBER 2014, ORGANIZED BY LIAQUAT UNIVERSITY OF
MEDICAL & HEALTH SCIENCES, JAMSHORO**

Conference Abstract

To present Pakistan's national conference on dental education proceedings, held on 14th-15th November 2014 organized by Institute of Dentistry, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro.

Conference Theme: "Exploring Dental Education in

Pakistan A Paradigm Shift"

Conference Segments / Component:

a) Inauguration of conference & dental skill lab: LUMHS Established Pakistan's Pioneer & state of the art dental lab. Inauguration done by Governor Sindh & Lab named after him.

b) Scientific Session: Eleven Papers presented by

| Speaker Details | Presentation Topic |
|---|--|
| Dr. Abid Ashar, VP Dentistry, Fatima Memorial College of Medicine & Dentistry-Lahore | Developing professionalism - dental student's perspective |
| Dr. Ayaz A Khan Associate Dean Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Punjab, Shaikh Zaid PG Medical Institute- Lahore | Achieving competencies. Can you manage with the present examination system & attendance regulations? |
| Dr. Farhan Raza, Consultant Restorative Dentistry Specialist, Dentistry Department, AKUH, Karachi | Changes in dental academia, focusing operative & paediatric dentistry |
| Dr. Amina Ahmad, Director Department of Medical Education, University of Health Sciences- Lahore | Educational environment: An important determinant of quality of dental education |
| Dr. Fazal e Ghani HoD Prosthodontics Department, Director R&D Cell, Khyber College of Dentistry, Peshawar | Role of dental care professionals in the delivery of dental health care services |
| Dr. Faisal Ghani, Incharge Minimally Invasive Surgical Centre, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences - Jamshoro | Ethics- not a luxury but today's need. Why teach ethics ? |
| Dr. Naveed Rasheed, Principal Dental College Liaquat College of Medicine & Dentistry, Karachi | Maxillofacial radiology - principles & interpretations |
| Dr. Humayoon Baig Health Department, Government of Punjab, Lahore | Forensic odontology a paradigm unexplored |
| Dr. Sheilla Pinjani, Medical Educationist, AKUH, Karachi | Introducing biostats & research methodology in dentistry. |
| Dr. Aneela A Rehman Dean Community Medicine & Public Health Sciences, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences - Jamshoro | Social responsibilities of dental institutes |
| Dr. Shahjahan Katpar, Prof. Maxillofacial Surgery, Institute of Dentistry, Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences - Jamshoro | Introducing behavioral sciences-A national change in dental education for Pakistan. |

invited key note national speakers in two separate sessions on selected topics to address and promote dental education in Pakistan.

c) Workshops: Two workshops conducted to promote dental faculty development.

d) Panel discussion: Conducted with an aim, to form a road map & to introduce new specialties, change the existing BDS bachelor’s program & to attain international standards for dentistry in Pakistan.

Result: A positive & successful academic activity conducted as a national cause to introduce & uplift non- existing dental education in Pakistan and obtained a positive outcome.

Conclusion: Panel discussion resolution passed to introduce seven/07 new specialties in dentistry & make BDS as a five year program. These recommendations have been forwarded to HEC & PMDC for necessary implementation from the year 2016, throughout Pakistan.

Keywords: Medical Education (ME), Dental Education (DE), Pioneer, Pakistan, New Specialties, Workshops,

Panel Discussion, Dental Skill Lab, International trends, Jamshoro.

BACKGROUND

Medical education is a well established profession in the developed world and has emerged in the last decade as a new challenge in pakistan for aspiring medical & dental graduates with diverse backgrounds. Whereas the dental education, unlike its international established status, is totally non-existent and presently in our country is at “a bud stage of tooth development”. We feel that, in order to promote and obtain excellence for dental profession in our country, dental education needs to be introduced. Therefore, this pioneer conference was organized to attain the same objective in Pakistan.

Proceedings

The objective of universities is to promote mainly medical & dental education along with other allied health professions keeping in mind

| Workshop Facilitator Name | Title | Workshop Objective |
|---|--|---|
| Dr. Sheilla Pinjani, AKUH- Karachi | Interactive lecture teaching skills | As a part of dental faculty development program |
| Dr. Amina Ahmad, UHS- Lahore | Time & stress management | Same as above |
| Panel discussion agenda | Group activity assigned | Common group tasks to accomplish |
| Share presentation on update existing BDS program & curriculam outline in Pakistan & comparison of this curriculam at international levels : India, China, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia,Uk, USA. The 7/seven subjects / specialties not at all taught in Pakistan, as separate specialties at BDS under graduate level are as under: 1. Bioethics 2. Behavioural Sciences 3. Paediatric Dentistry 4. Biostatistics & Research Methodology 5. Geriatric Dentistry 6. Forensic Odontology 7. Oral & Maxillofacial Radiology (Omf Radiology) | All 32 Participants were divided into 4 Groups: A, B, C, D For each small group discussion (SGD) a facilitator was selected. Tasks for each group were the same & only the Subject/ Specialty to be introduced at BDS Program was different. Each group selected a representative to make a brief 10 minutes presentation on the task assigned. Specialty groups are: OMF Radiology & Bioethics b) Behavioral Sciences & Biostatistics & Research Methodology c) Paediatric Dentistry d) Forensic Odontology & Geriatric Dentistry | Identify most suitable major qualified medical / Dental / Any other specialty to teach this subject as a separate specialty in dentistry. Should a separate Exam be also held for this new Specialty? What can be done for Faculty Development? Time allotted for this activity was 45 minutes |

the development of skills and research culture. In this regard, under the visionary umbrella of Prof. Noshad A Shaikh- conference patron (VC LUMHS) the institute of dentistry organized above stated conference to create a new academic platform to address dental professional issues. Prof. Shahjahan Katpar was given the task to organize this major academic event as conference chairman and Dr. Naresh Kumar nominated as secretary with support from the dental faculty. This two days conference was well attended by more than 400 delegates and included invited guest speakers from all over Pakistan. The conference participants were awarded CDE credit hour certificates as per PMDC Policy and it was mainly sponsored by LUMHS with publication of conference bulletin. The Conference segments / component consisted of the inauguration, scientific session, workshops and panel discussion.

Prof. Noshad A Shaikh- VC LUMHS and conference patron welcomed governor sindh as chief guest and welcomed all guests for participation with special thanks to all invited guest speakers coming from all parts of Pakistan to attend this two day conference. He further updated about, establishing a state of the Art-Pakistan's pioneer dental skill lab having latest teaching aids for dental students. he stated that, at this lab hands-on training will be provided to both undergraduate, postgraduate students and general dental practitioner's to improve their clinical skills via tutorials, practical's and workshops. He announced to name this lab after govenronor sindh to promote educational developments in health sector. He said in his speech and hoped that, this conference will provide a national road map for dental profession and this will benefit not only the dental students but will hopefully provide guidelines to all related national stake holders. In the end he congratulated the entire team and wished them success at all fronts. Governor sindh thanked prof. noshad for his invitation and congratulated dental faculty to organize this important pioneer conference and hoped that a new progressive era

for dentistry will begin in Pakistan. Governor Sindh also thanked Prof. Noshad A Shaikh for naming the Skill Lab after him and further stated that, the conference theme, "Exploring dental education a paradigm shift in Pakistan" is most suitable and reflective to address numerous issues faced by dental profession at a national level. Later he visited this lab and was briefed about its performance and machinery installed by Dr. Feroze Kalhoro principal institute of dentistry and by conference chairman. Prof. Shahjahan Katpar being the conference chairman offered vote of thanks and was grateful to the conference patron for his valuable support, guidance and trust. He further thanked governor sindh to grace the occasion and he also welcomed all invited guest speakers, Faculty, students and offered thanks for his entire team to organize this successful conference. Dr. Katpar further stated that, LUMHS proudly continues its tradition to become national trend setter in Pakistan, for holding this First ever national conference on dental education. This conference will allow us to enter into a new academic era and move towards achieving international standards in dental profession for Pakistan. continuous dental education (CDE) certificates were awarded to all conference and workshop registered participants, as per PMDC & LUMHS policy.

The scientific proceedings had two separate sessions. Majority of invited speakers came from all major cities of Pakistan. Oral Papers were presented related to conference theme, their details are stated above.

Two separate and parallel workshops, details as above were conducted by medical educationists:

Panel discussion an outdoor evening academic activity was held at LUMHS campus outside dental college at foreign faculty hostel. All participants were welcomed by the honorable vice chancellor and introduction of all participants and a power point presentation was done by conference chairman. This panel discussion was attended by 32 participants, as the

most important aspect of this conference, whose details are above stated. All invited speakers, dental college principals/ CEO/ VC's from Sindh n Balochistan provinces, senior dental and medical faculty from LUMHS actively participated. All dental college academic heads of both Public and Private Sector in Sindh & Balochistan were also invited to attend this Panel.

CONCLUSION

At the end Prof. Noshad A Shaikh thanked all participants for attending this panel discussion and stated that, the resolution guidelines formed would be forwarded to PMDC & HEC Stake holders from LUMHS Platform for implementation across the country.

DISCUSSION

Panel discussion outcome & resolutions passed are as under:

1. Unanimously agreed, that these 7/ seven subjects taught internationally must also be introduced in Pakistan & efforts made to establish separate departments with induction of proper Qualified Subject faculty.
2. Separate curriculum committees for these 7/ seven specialties be formed, as a second step
3. Steps be taken to conduct their exams separately, if possible or these can also be incorporated with other subjects only for a short term, but not for a long time.
4. Public or private sector medical university having their own constituent dental colleges in all four provinces of Pakistan can take a lead to practice and follow this matter. Later on this

policy can be followed by other remaining Dental Colleges in whole country.

5. BDS program duration should be increased from 4 to 5 years to meet international scenario.
6. HEC efforts to increase BDS program for 5 years were acknowledged and these 7/ seven subjects discussed at this forum should be incorporated to fill the gaps present.
7. Similar to medical education, the dental education should also be promoted in Pakistan
8. Dental faculty development programs must be started to meet shortfall of faculty.
9. More such academic events should be regularly organized at a National Level to promote non-existing Dental Education in Pakistan.

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