



Newsletter

Pakistan Academy of Sciences

3-Constitution Avenue, G-5/2, Islamabad PAKISTAN Tel: (92 51) 920-7140; Fax: (92 51) 920-6770
Email: newsletter@paspk.org Web: www.paspk.org

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

I am pleased to present Vol.5(4) of the Newsletter of the Academy and hope that the readers would find its contents informative. Since the Newsletter of the Academy covers ongoing and planned activities of various scientific establishments on country wide basis, we keenly look forward to receiving inputs promptly and on regular basis. The Academy has established an electronic facility, newsletter@paspk.org, for rapid communication of news for inclusion in the Newsletter. In case the required information is sent by post, a soft copy (3.5 inch floppy, MS-Word) is necessary to facilitate editorial process. The readers are reminded that the schedule of publication of the Newsletter is January, April, July and October. We also look forward to receiving suggestions for improvement in the Newsletter.

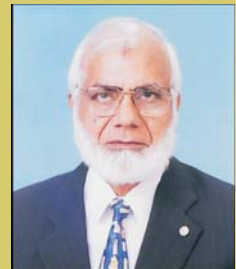
COMMENCING WITH AN EARLIER ISSUE, THE NEWSLETTER HAD INITIATED A SECTION "ISSUES & VIEWS" WHICH AIMS AT HIGHLIGHTING VIEWS OF FELLOWS OF THE ACADEMY AND THE READERS ON ISSUES OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL IMPORTANCE. THE IDEA IS TO CREATE A DIALOGUE IN ORDER TO ENHANCE AWARENESS OF THE READERS REGARDING CONCERNS OF CRITICAL NATURE AND THAT MAY HAVE RECEIVED SCANT ATTENTION OF THE POLICY MAKERS AND PLANNERS. THE READERS ARE REQUESTED TO FREELY INITIATE A BRIEF ON BURNING AREAS OF GLOBAL AND REGIONAL CONCERN BY WRITING TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE NEWSLETTER. SUCH VIEWS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTERS.

PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (PAS) NEWS

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Anwar Waqar (1941-2010)

Obituary:

"Life is a disease with 100% mortality". We all suffer from this disease and eventually are going to go back to our Maker. However, those few will be remembered who through their noble deeds to humanity would leave indelible marks during their short journey in this world. Professor Muhammad Anwar Waqar is certainly among those who will be remembered for decades for invaluable contribution to science and humanity. He left for his heavenly abode on June 14, 2010. Professor Waqar was born in Batala, Undivided, India, in 1941. He received his M.Sc. Degree in Biochemistry in 1964 from the Punjab University, Lahore and PhD in Biochemistry from the Flinders University of South Australia in 1973. His thesis work was based on DNA synthesis in Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Cambridge, Massachusetts. He joined the Department of Medical Viral Oncology, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, Buffalo, New York, in 1976 as Cancer Research Scientist and made a seminal contribution to the mechanism and biochemistry of DNA replication in higher organisms.



He joined the Aga Khan University as Professor and Founding Chairman, Department of Biochemistry in May 1986. Apart from his outstanding teaching and research capabilities, he was actively involved in institutional development, faculty recruitment and curriculum design during his 16 years tenure at AKU. He had the unique honour of serving as the fellow of all regional scientific academies and published more than 170 research papers in leading national and international journals with a cumulative impact of over 280. He was honored with several prestigious awards, including the *Tamga-e-Imtiaz*, *Sitara-e-Imtiaz*, *Khwarizmi Laureate* and HEC's title "*Distinguished National Professor*".

He retired from AKU in 2002 after 16 years of distinguished services. He then served Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation as Director of Research and Professor of Cell Biology for nearly 2 years and then joined Punjwani Center for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research, International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences, University of Karachi as Senior Professor of Biochemistry. In 2009, he was diagnosed to have CNS lymphoma which responded well to chemotherapy and radiotherapy. He remained in remission for several months and suddenly had a relapse and passed away on June 14, 2010. He will always be remembered as an outstanding teacher and a distinguished scholar of international stature. He was a very kind hearted human being with immense integrity and humility. He was sincere in his beliefs and wise in his counsel. He was extremely honest and was blessed with a charming personality. He was a role model. He will be sorely missed by his students and colleagues.

May ALLAH rest his soul in eternal peace. (Ameen)

Dr. Mohammad Perwaiz Iqbal, *FPAS*
Department of Biological & Biomedical Sciences
Aga Khan University
Karachi, Pakistan.

COMSATS NEWS

International Conference on Frontiers of Information Technology (December 21-23, 2010)

This is the 8th event of Frontiers of Information Technology (FIT) in its history to be held this year on Dec 21 – 23 2010. Due to its intensive and broader involvement at the international level, FIT 2009 was upgraded to an International Conference after holding its six FIT workshops in the past years. The first International workshop on Frontiers of Information Technology was organized by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology, Pakistan. The event was co-sponsored by National Science Foundation, USA and COMSATS in cooperation with University of Illinois, Chicago and Purdue University. The workshop held annually till 2008. Since its inception, the workshop provided a cohesive networking opportunity to the international researchers to share their work. In 2009 FIT was successfully conducted as International Conference on Dec 16 -18 at marvellous and scenic campus of CIIT Abbotabad.

QUAID-I-AZAM UNIVERSITY (QAU) NEWS

11th International Pure Mathematics Conference 2010

The 11th International Pure Mathematics Conference 2010 under the theme of 'Algebra, Geometry and Analysis' kicked started here on Friday with an aim to provide a novel opportunity for researchers to meet and share their work with some outstanding and eminent mathematicians.



Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai, Vice Chancellor QAU with Sardar Asif Ali are going to inaugurate the Conference

The conference has been organized by Quaid-i-Azam University in collaboration with National Centre for Physics (NCP) and Preston University. Federal Minister for Education Sardar Assef Ahmed Ali inaugurated the conference.

Three foreign mathematicians, twelve local experts and forty five other speakers would share their experience and knowledge with the participants of the conference.

QAU Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Masoom Yasinzai in his inaugural speech said that Mathematics is playing a significant role in the development of science and technology all over the world and people are benefiting from its innovations.

Being one of the most important countries in the world, Pakistan cannot afford to undermine its role in the global affairs in general, and science and technology in particular. Since Mathematics is one of the most useful branches of science, Pakistan will not lag behind in contributing its share in its development.

He said it is essential for Pakistani mathematicians to remain in touch with the international community of their counterparts. Our universities should ensure that their mathematical enterprise maintains contact with the international mathematicians' community through various means, such as, by attending conferences abroad and inviting foreign scholars to attend similar conferences in Pakistan. Dean faculty of Natural Sciences and President of Pakistan Mathematical Society Prof. Dr. Qaiser Mushtaq while speaking on the occasion said that the uplift of the national economy requires that due attention be paid to science and technology.

For development in science, a sound mathematical foundation is a pre-requisite. Therefore, it is imperative that an adequate mathematical culture be developed in Pakistan. He said the series of conferences on Pure Mathematics is an important step in this direction as it adds to improvement in the quality of research in mathematics and exposes young mathematicians to mathematics at the highest level.

ISLAMIC WORLD ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (IAS) NEWS

The IAS Director General, Moneef R. Zou'bi is pleased to inform the Fellow/Associates/Friends of the IAS that the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS) has recently been elected to the membership of the Inter-Academy Medical Panel (IAMP).

It is worth mentioning that the IAS already enjoys the membership of the Inter-Academy Panel (IAP) and the International Union of Academies (IUA).

Annex

Some highlights of the recent IAMP General Assembly meeting at Kuala Lumpur

Pending the full report on the General Assembly please find below a brief summary of the highlight of this meeting, provided for participants and for those member academies that were unable to attend.

1. Jo Ivey Boufford, IOM, USA, was elected Co-Chair for the group of high income countries. The General Assembly decided to postpone the election of a Co-Chair for the group of low and middle income countries on the grounds that the unexpected withdrawal of Tony Mbewu as candidate for that position had left insufficient time for member academies to prepare nominations. The election will now be held by email with candidates to be submitted before 1 September 2010. The Co-Chair from the high income countries and the Executive Committee were requested to make arrangements to ensure that in the interim period the voice of low and middle income countries was represented at Co-Chair level.
2. The General Assembly also elected a new Executive Committee consisting of nine members. From the low and middle income countries: Brazilian Academy of Sciences, Academia Nacional de Medicina de Colombia, Nigerian Academy of Sciences, Turkish Academy of Sciences and African Academy of Sciences. From the high income countries: Académie Nationale de Médecine, France, Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina, Academia dei Lincei, Italy and Royal Swedish Academy of Science.

3. Five new academies joined IAMP as members: Academia de Ciencias Medicas, Fysicas y Naturales de Guatemala, Tanzania Academy of Sciences, Thai Academy of Science and Technology, National Academy of Medicine of Venezuela and Islamic World Academy of Sciences.
4. The General Assembly also adopted new Statutes and discussed the draft of the IAMP strategic plan, providing essential input for finalizing the draft.
5. The outgoing Co-Chair, Guy de Thé, was thanked for his important contribution to IAMP. With a warm round of applause the new Co-Chair, Jo Ivey Boufford, handed him a certificate signed by all Executive Committee members to express their appreciation for his commitment to IAMP and leadership over the past 10 Years.

The first meeting of the new Executive Committee appointed Sevket Ruacan of the Turkish Academy of Sciences to represent the voice of low and middle income countries at Co-Chair level pending the election of a new Co-Chair from that group of countries.

The Committee also discussed future relations with IAP and the importance of engaging in discussions with IAP leadership on these matters.

The preparation of project proposals and the budget for 2010 core support of IAMP and projects were also discussed.

The Committee also decided it would arrange monthly conference calls and try to meet face to face twice a year, perhaps in conjunction with already scheduled global meetings to reduce costs. The next meeting may take place in October 2010, if possible.

Overall, participants considered the Scientific Meetings very successful and the Akademi Sains Malaysia was warmly thanked for the impeccable organization of the meeting and for the warmth of their hospitality.

ANDROLOGY

Male Reproductive Health and Dysfunction

This is the 3rd, totally revised edition of a well-known textbook that continues to represent the gold standard in the literature on clinical andrology. It examines in depth all aspects of male reproductive health, encompassing the basic physiology of male reproductive function and a wide range of disorders. Each of the chapters is written by outstanding experts in the field. Among the topics covered are: Testicular function, Sperm maturation and fertilization, Diagnostic procedures, Infertility, Primary and secondary hypogonadism, Late-onset hypogonadism, Erectile dysfunction, Genetic disorders, Environmental influences, Psychology and sexual medicine, Testosterone therapy, Assisted reproduction: TESE and ICSI, Cryopreservation, Male contraception, Ethics in andrology. This volume will serve as a textbook for the newcomer to andrology, while providing the experienced physician with a valuable reference work. It will appeal to all who are concerned with male reproductive health: Andrologists, Urologists, Endocrinologists, Gynecologists, Internists, Pediatricians, Basic scientists.



The essential reference book both for beginners and experts Covers all aspects of the male reproductive systems, including diseases and effects of aging Up-to-date coverage of assisted reproduction and erectile dysfunction

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QuaDeGA

Qualitätskontrolle für
Deutschen Gesellschaft
für Andrologie
Quality control programme
of the German Society of
Andrology

Examination of the ejaculate is central to andrological laboratory diagnosis. Carrying out the examination accurately whilst minimizing confounding factors is a prerequisite for attaining reliable results. Analyses need to be performed using standardized techniques subjected to continuous internal and external quality control.

QuaDeGA offers a programme for external quality control. The German Federal Medical Board is currently undertaking the necessary preparations for the inclusion of quality assurance of the ejaculate into their Guidelines for Laboratory Investigations.

Trials for External Quality Control

In 2001 Professor Dr. E. Nieschlag, at that time president of the German Society of Andrology, initiated QuaDeGA, the first external quality control program for

semen analysis in Germany. Since then, quality control samples have been distributed twice a year. Consisting of two washed and fixed sperm preparations, these samples allow for the estimation of sperm concentration and preparation and staining of a smear for the assessment of morphologically normal forms. CD-ROMs containing film sequences of two different native semen samples are provided for analysis of sperm motility.

Analyses should follow the guidelines set out in the *WHO Laboratory Manual for the Examination of Human Semen and Sperm-Cervical Mucus Interaction* (Fourth edition, CLP, Cambridge, 1999). These guidelines will be replaced by a new edition in 2010.

Analysis

The process is fully automated with the participants entering their results online. Once all results are submitted they are collated, analysed and compared. Each participant then re-

ceives a tabular and graphical display of the results. A Youden plot showing the results from all centres as well as their own centre in a contrasting colour is provided. The results should lie within a target window established by the median values of all participants. From the position of their results on the graph, each centre receives a ranking for each parameter.

At the conclusion of every QuaDeGA trial, each centre receives a certificate of participation.

Participants

In the 17th run in 2009 QuaDeGA had over 200 participants from Germany and abroad.

Costs

200 € yearly for members of the German Society of Andrology,
300 € for non-members, (plus VAT).

A hotline for advice on distribution or results is available free of charge to participants of the QuaDeGA trials.

Semen analysis courses intensive hands-on practical courses take place regularly, focussing on the individual steps of conducting a spermogram in accordance with WHO norms. These are provided to small groups and the costs are borne by the participants.

QuaDeGA GmbH
(incorporated in GieBen
under HRB 7 147)

Managing Director:
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c.
E. Nieschlag

Scientific Supervisor:
Dr. Con Mallitis

Head Technician:
Barbara Hellmeyer

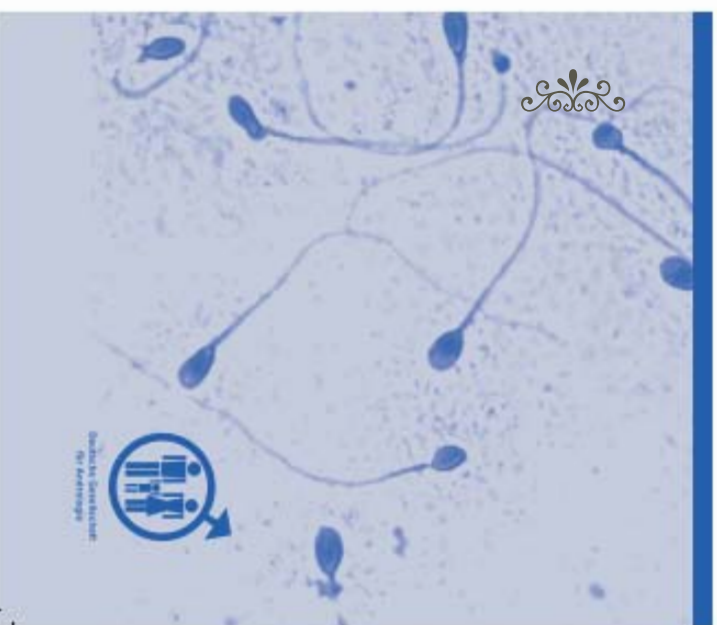
Address:
Domagkstrasse 11
D-48129 Münster, Germany
Tel. +49/0-251-835 6445 or
+49/0-251-835 2047

Contact and applications:
Info@
quadega.uni-muenster.de

QuaDeGA

Qualitätskontrolle der
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Quality control programme
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