

# News Letter

**PAKISTAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES**

*Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation for Socio-economic Development*

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*HI, SI, TI*

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- ✦ International Conference and Industrial Exhibition by UET Lahore
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## Message by the President

I would like to sincerely thank the Fellows of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences for reposing confidence in me by elected me as President of the Academy. I hope that the newly elected Council and I would meet the trust and expectations of the Fellows in fulfilling the demands of the challenging task ahead of us.

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) have become critically important for socio-economic development of society in a rapidly changing global scenario. The prosperity of the developed nations has changed from

resource base to knowledge base. Unfortunately, there is a big gap between scientists and policy makers, and between research and production sectors in most developing countries, including Pakistan. I think the Academy can play a vital role in this regard and we would like to connect closely with policy-and decision-makers in our Government. We would try to make our Government realize that: 1) investment in STI, Education and human resource development is the only option that can steer Pakistan successfully in the 21st Century, and 2) the Academy can provide sound policy advice and prepare scholarly documents for strategizing future development in Science and Technology.

The Academy has signed bilateral agreements with many foreign academies and science organizations. We would pursue these agreements actively for enhanced international collaborations, better understanding, and mutual benefits.

Therefore, in the coming three years, we shall be focusing on building closer links with our decision makers for the promotion of STI, and sustainability of the initiatives and programs of the Academy. It is gratifying that the Academy has accomplished and influential Fellows and I would need the advice and benign support of all for the successful pursuit of these endeavors.



Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan (*HI, SI, TI*)  
President, PAS

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## Additional Members of Council of the Academy

In addition to office bearers of Council of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences published in October 2017 issue of Newsletter, additional members of the Council are: Secretary Peshawar Chapter and Members nominated by Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST), Ministry of Education (MoE) and Higher Education Commission (HEC).



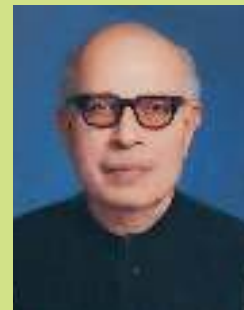
**Prof. Dr. M. Asif Khan**  
Secretary Peshawar Chapter



**Dr. Muhammad Iqbal**  
Member (MoST)



**Prof. Dr. Zabta K. Shinwari**  
Member (MoE)



**Prof. Dr. M. D. Shami**  
Member (HEC)

## Workshop on Review of PAS-NAS Clinical Laboratory Handbook

In order to promote cooperation between American and Pakistani public health and infectious disease experts, the Pakistan Academy of Sciences (PAS), together with the US National Academy of Sciences (NAS), had convened a joint Workshop on September 27-29, 2016 in Islamabad. The purpose of that event was to improve communications, cooperation, and coordination among public, private, military, and animal health clinical laboratories.

A follow up Meeting was held in April 2017 in Islamabad with officials of US National Academy of Sciences to plan a Handbook for improving clinical laboratories and laboratory networks in Pakistan with a special focus on raising the quality and capabilities of labs in more remote parts of the country. During this meeting, a Workshop was

planned to be held in September 2017 in Islamabad to draft the chapters for the Clinical Laboratory Handbook by the authors selected by PAS and NAS.

Due to non-security clearance for the US participants, this Workshop was shifted from Islamabad to Bangkok, Thailand on January 28-30, 2018.

**Prof. Dr. Zabta K. Shinwari** led a team of 22 from experts from Pakistan to participate in the joint Pakistan-U.S. Workshop to “Review PAS-NAS Clinical Laboratory Handbook”.

Currently, PAS and NAS are finalizing the Handbook under the editorship of **Dr. Aamer Ikram**, Executive Director, National Institute of Health. The Handbook will be published in English and local languages (Urdu, Sindhi, etc.) and disseminated in Pakistan.



# IEEE ICOSST 2017 - International Conference and Industrial Exhibition

An International Conference on Open Source Systems and Technologies, 11th IEEE ICOSST 2017, was held in University of Engineering and Technology (UET), Lahore on 18-20 December, 2017. Chief Guest of inaugural ceremony was **Prof. Dr. Fazal Ahmad Khalid**, Vice Chancellor UET, Lahore.

The theme of IEEE ICOSST 2017 was 'Open AI' which highlights the seriousness and business-viability that the wired and mobile community has begun to attribute towards open source software (OSS).

Speakers from American University in Emirates, Umm Ul Qura University Saudi Arabia, University of California USA, University of Oklahoma USA, IBM USA participated. Technical talks were also delivered by invited speakers from leading Pakistani universities, such as LUMS, ITU, NUST, IBM Karachi, UET (Lahore and Peshawar) and FAST.

Leading stakeholders of IT Industry in Pakistan organized industry demos, roundtables and exhibition which included Crescent Group, Huawei Technologies, APTECH, COMSATS, Innova Networks, Autosoft Dynamics, Northbay Solutions, LUMS, LSE, UET.



## IEEE International Conference on Energy Conservation and Efficiency

IEEE International Conference on Energy Conservation and Efficiency (ICECE 2017), a joint initiative of University of Engineering and Technology (UET) Lahore, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Foundation (FSK EECF) and Industrial Application Society, USA (IEEE IAS), was held on 22nd November 2017 at Flattei's Hotel, Lahore. Dr. Zubair Ghouri, CEO, Lahore Knowledge Park Company, was Chief Guest at inaugural session of the Conference.

**Prof. Dr. Fazal A. Khalid**, Vice Chancellor, UET, Lahore welcomed the distinguished guests which included Syed Shamoon Hashmi (Joint Secretary National Assembly of Pakistan), Mr. Asad Mahmood (Manager Technical ECF/NEECA), Mr. Jamil Ahmad Mayo (CEO, HNL Pvt. Ltd), Mr. Abdur Rahman (Program Manager PECCA, Punjab). Ms. Lea Swanson (USAID Provincial

Director, Punjab) was the honorable guest at the occasion.

Closing ceremony of ICECE 2017 was co-chaired by Provincial Minister for Education, Rana Mashhood and Provincial Minister for Energy, Ch. Sher Ali.



## Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman appointed as Visiting Professor in a Chinese University

Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman has been appointed as an Honorary Visiting Professor at the School of Pharmacy, Hunan University of Chinese Medicine, Changsha, Hunan, China. He visited Changsha from 31st October to 3rd November 2017 and delivered a number of lectures on Natural Product Chemistry.

A formal Ceremony of his appointment as Honorary Professor was held in the office of Rector of the University on 2nd November, 2017. Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman has developed a strong collaboration with Chinese Universities in a number of fields including nanomedicine,


neuroscience and traditional Chinese Medicine that has resulted in his winning the highest Civil Award of China as well as being elected “Academician” of Chinese Academy of Sciences.





## Recipients of 2018 Breakthrough Prizes

The Breakthrough Prize sponsors Sergey Brin, Yuri and Julia Milner, Mark Zuckerberg and Priscilla Chan, Anne Wojcicki, and Pony Ma, announced recipients of the 2018 Breakthrough Prizes, which recognized top achievements in Life Sciences, Fundamental Physics and Mathematics. A total of \$22 million was awarded at the gala ceremony in Silicon Valley, hosted by Morgan Freeman. **Each Breakthrough Prize is worth \$3 million, the largest individual monetary prize in science.**

Since its inception in 2012, the Breakthrough Prize has awarded close to \$200 million to honor paradigm-shifting research in the fields of fundamental physics, life sciences, and mathematics.

 The 2018 Breakthrough Prize in **Mathematics** was Awarded to Christopher Hacon (University of Utah) and James McKernan (University of California, San Diego).

 The 2018 Breakthrough Prize in **Life Sciences** was Awarded to Joanne Chory (Salk Institute for Biological Studies and Howard Hughes Medical Institute), Don W. Cleveland (Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research at University of California, San Diego), Kazutoshi Mori (Kyoto University), Kim Nasmyth (University of Oxford) and Peter Walter (University of California, San Francisco).

 The 2018 Breakthrough Prize in **Fundamental Physics** was Awarded to Charles L. Bennett (Johns Hopkins University), Gary Hinshaw (University of British Columbia), Norman Jarosik (Princeton University), Lyman Page Jr. (Princeton University), and David N. Spergel (Princeton University).

More information on the Breakthrough Prizes is at: [www.breakthroughprize.org](http://www.breakthroughprize.org)



Recipients of 2018 Breakthrough Prizes

## Dr. Abdul Rashid Wins 2017 IPNI Science Award

International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI), Georgia, USA has named Dr. Abdul Rashid, Fellow, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, as the winner of 2017 *IPNI Science Award* (<http://www.ipni.net/article/IPNI-3475>). The *IPNI Science Award* recognizes outstanding achievements in research, extension, or education; with focus on efficient management of plant nutrients and their positive interaction in integrated cropping systems that enhance yield potential. A committee of noted international authorities selects the recipient. The Award comprises of a special plaque and cash prize of US\$ 5,000.

Dr. Abdul Rashid is a past President of Soil Science Society of Pakistan, IFA Norman Borlaug Laureate, Pakistan's Dr. Norman Borlaug Laureate, East-West Center Distinguished Alumnus and Fellow of Indian Society of Soil Science. He has served as Director General of National

Agricultural Research Center and Member (Bio-Sciences) of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. Currently, he is involved in R&D on biofortification of staple cereals with zinc and iodine to address micronutrient malnutrition.



## Prof. Dr. Syed Qaim Organizes Two Sessions at an International Conference

**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c.(mult) Syed M. Qaim** of the Research Centre Juelich and the University of Cologne, Germany, who is also a Foreign Fellow of PAS and an Honorary Professor of Government College University Lahore, recently organised two sessions at "9th International Conference on Isotopes and Expo", held at Doha, Qatar, in November 2017, under the Umbrella of the World Council on Isotopes in cooperation with the IAEA and the American Nuclear Society. The Conference was attended by about 200 scientists from more than 30 countries. Prof. Qaim also gave a leading Plenary Lecture on the future of PET radionuclides

and moderated a discussion session. Honouring his contributions the organisers awarded him a special "**Plaque of Recognition**".



## A Laudable Memory



Founding Fellow and past President of PAS, **Prof. Dr. Salimuzzaman Siddiqui, FRS** (1897-1994), busy in his laboratory at the age of more than 90

## Obituary

### Prof. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad

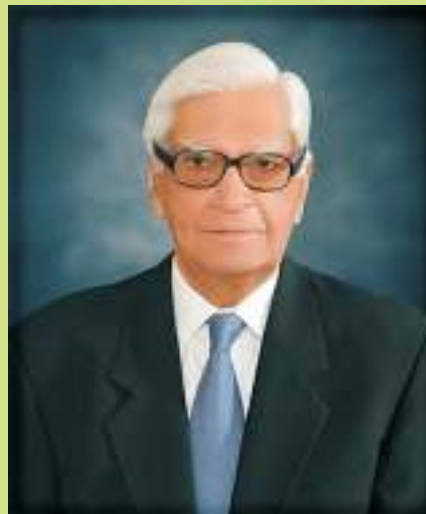
A highly accomplished and decorated scientist, a past President and a senior Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, **Prof. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad**, expired in Islamabad on 18th January, 2018. He was born on 3rd November 1930. He did M.Sc. in Physics from University of the Punjab, in 1951. Later, he did D.Sc. in Physics from University of Montreal, Canada.

Prof. Dr. Ishfaq Ahmad worked as Senior Advisor, Climate Change & Development, Planning Commission, Gov. of Pakistan, 2008-2012 (Status Minister of State); Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Pakistan on Strategic Programs, 2002-2008; Special Advisor to the Chief Executive of Pakistan, 2001-2002 (Status Federal Minister); and Chairman, Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) 1991-2001.

Prof. Ishfaq's professional contributions brought him many prestigious and international honors and awards, like Nishan-i-Imtiaz, 1998; Hilal-i-Imtiaz, 1995; Sitara-i-Imtiaz, 1989; Gold Medal, Pakistan Academy of Sciences, 1998; Gold Medal, Institute of Leadership Management (ILM), 1998; Gold Medal, Society of Engineering, Materials and Metallurgy (SEMM), Karachi, 1998; Gold Medal, Geological Society of Punjab, 1998;

Doctorate of Science Honoris Causa, University of Engineering & Technology, Lahore, 2000. At the time of his demise, Prof. Ishfaq Ahmad was Chairman, Board of Governors (Honorary), National Centre for Physics (NCP), Islamabad.

May Allah Almighty bless his soul with eternal peace. Aameen.



## Obituary

### Prof. Dr. Riaz Ali Shah

We are grieved to report the sad demise of an eminent scientist and a senior Fellow of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, **Prof. Dr. Riaz Ali Shah**, who breathed his last in Lahore on Saturday, 27th January, 2018. He was born in Lahore, British India, on 20th October, 1924. He obtained his M.Sc. in 1956 from University of the Punjab, and PhD. from Birmingham University.

Prof. Dr. Riaz Ali Shah was Company Director, Pakistan, PVC, Karachi, 1992; Consultant, Pakistan Science Foundation, 1984-1987; Director, PASTIC, 1983; Director General, Pakistan Museum of Natural History, 1982-1984; Director, Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Labs. (PCSIR), Karachi, 1981-1982; Director, PCSIR, Peshawar, 1972-1981.

Prof. Shah won many prestigious honors and recognitions including Academic Roll of Honor, Govt. College, Lahore and Open Gold Medal of Pakistan Academy of Sciences. Also, he was Fellow, Pakistan

Academy of History & Philosophy of Science; Fellow, Institute of Chemical Engineers (F.I.Ch.E.); Associate.

May Allah Almighty bless the departed soul with eternal peace. Aameen.

