



It is my distinct privilege to be serving as the President of our alumni association for 2017 and I welcome all Iqbalians to the APPNA Summer Convention. This is a special year for AIMCAANA as we will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary. The theme of this year's AIMCAANA agenda has been inclusivity of the membership, improving collaborations with APPNA projects/committees and further our commitment to projects at our alma mater. Just as in previous years, we are committed to ongoing, successful programs such as the Jinnah Allama Iqbal Diabetes and Endocrinology (JAIDE) unit, ongoing support for free medicine, AIMCAANA MERIT awards to top AIMC

graduates, IQBAL Loan project for graduates seeking GME in the US, etc. We held our first AIMCAANA Retreat at the APPNA Spring Meeting held in Philadelphia, PA in April 2017. The meeting was attended by 25 Iqbalians and several new initiatives were discussed. This year, the immigrant community in the US is facing challenges it has not encountered in decades and would not have expected to do so in the 21st century. Although the initial scare of a travel ban was averted by our strong judicial system, there is certainly a shift in US policy that is making non-immigrant visas difficult to get for Pakistani citizens. There has been a wave of B1B2 and J1 visa rejections, like the scale that was perhaps seen in 2003. AIMCAANA has rallied around APPNA committees (YPC, Advocacy Committee, Civic Engagement Committee, etc.) to lend maximum support. We will be starting an immigration fee support scheme for young Iqbalians seeking graduate medical education (GME) in the US. We are also expanding the IQBAL loan scheme, by increasing number of recipients. We will be establishing an annual AIMCAANA Research Award for Iqbalians in US residencies and fellowships that will help bolster their academic careers. We have also revamped our website to make it more user-friendly. Current AIMCAANA members will be able to create their online profiles and pay dues online. Iqbalians who are interested in joining AIMCAANA would be able to do so using the online portal. Any donations via the website will generate an automated email with details about the 501c(3) status that can be utilized for tax-filing. We will also be helping our membership organize their landmark anniversary (10/15/20/25 year anniversaries, etc.) celebrations as part of the APPNA Winter meeting later this year.

Yours sincerely,

Saad Z. Usmani, MD FACP

President AIMCAANA 2017

Email: saadzu@yahoo.com or saad.usmani@carolinashealthcare.org