

Dear APPNA members

Assalam-alaikum

It is indeed a privilege to serve as the secretary of APPNA for 2017.

We started the year by conducting a fruitful strategic planning meeting in Orlando. Working closely with the moderators a spirited discussion was held regarding our strengths and weaknesses. In addition, the team is assisting the president and the host committee, to carry out an outstanding council meeting in Philadelphia. All council members have been personally invited to make their participation as interactive as possible, for our first legislative body meeting of the year.

The Summer council and general body meeting will be held in Orlando in July. This will be followed by Fall council meeting in Cincinnati in October. We will be closing out the year with the Winter meeting in Lahore in December. The entire membership is sincerely encouraged to actively participate in these meetings. Please feel free to contact me for assistance in this regard.

As the secretary, I am assisting all the committee chairs in accomplishing their objectives and provide a bridge for smooth inter-committee coordination as well. The WebEx system™ is provided to committees for conducting online meetings, which is functioning well. Minutes of all council meetings will be accessible on our website for members' review. Our aim is to place all committee reports online.

The reverberation of the Executive Order on "travel ban" has been felt across the length and breadth of our membership. APPNA's leadership and the Advocacy Committee convened almost immediately to keep our members abreast of the changing landscape and work on a rigorous plan of advocacy at the national level. As a part of the team, I was fortunate to participate in advocacy activities during these difficult times and worked diligently in providing updates from our legal advisors to our membership.

Supporting the activities of the Committee of Young Physicians is very close to my heart, since I have been actively involved in it for multiple years. This team is actively grooming future leaders in the organization and planning various Young Physician Seminars during the summer meeting. Another key activity is to continue Career Counseling in the US as well as in Pakistan.

On the request of the Chair of the MERIT Committee, I am working on developing a curriculum for Cardiovascular Medicine. All medical colleges in Pakistan will be invited to participate in this program.

The President's vision for APPNA is to focus on civic engagement and participation in our local communities. I am truly convinced of the efficacy of this vision. APPNA's flagship projects in this respect are the clinics and food banks run by local chapters.

In conclusion, I request the membership to continue providing their guidance to engender a superior APPNA to serve the membership.

See you all in Philadelphia!

God bless

M. Rizwan Khalid, MD

Secretary