

As your President, I would like to welcome you to the 2018 APPNA Spring Meeting in Chicago. I am confident that you and your family are having a good time.

As a trend that was started just this year, I am excited to have JSMUAANA, Khyber Medical Alumni and APPNA Illinois chapter PPS put forth their efforts and resources together to make this meeting a great success.

The Spring Meeting is the first APPNA council meeting where Council members gather to discuss and decide the direction of the organization. This is the meeting when budget is presented and approved for the year and all legislative modifications are brought to member's attention through Council. It is the duty of every Council member to attend this meeting since their roles of leadership, as Presidents of Alumni and Chapters, is vital to the progress of our organization.

I am so proud of the Spring meeting team who have put all their efforts and resources to make it a successful event. The Chair of the meeting, Dr. Aftab Khan, is a visionary and a hard working leader, who was able to work with everyone to provide the absolute best for our members.

Right from the beginning, my goal has been to introduce all of our projects in the first quarter of the year, and that is why you are seeing numerous educational and healthcare initiatives operational already.

Our Mobile Health Clinic in Pakistan, in collaboration with Muhammad Medical College, has already been a great success. Dr. Razi Muhammad, Dean of Muhammad Medical College has been a great partner on the ground. It is my sincere wish that we can establish a network of Mobile Clinics throughout Pakistan with the help of our Alumni and Chapters. To accomplish my goal to donate at least 10 Mobile clinic units, I have requested the chairs of various meetings to donate one clinic each. I am pleased to announce that Chair of International meeting has just fulfilled his promise and has donated one mobile clinic on behalf of APPNA international Committee and their participant members.

We have introduced a free service for our members, the APPNA Concierge Service, thanks to the APPNA Pakistan Secretariat. This service has been established

through a newly signed MOU with our partner, CureMD, and is gaining momentum. I am confident that this service will attract many physicians to become our members by utilizing this tangible free benefit.

Day on the Hill with SAPNA, created by a coalition of AAPI and BMANA, has very successfully addressed issues faced by our new graduates and physicians of South Asian origin. The leadership of AAPI and BMANA has enthusiastically made a significant difference in the lives of South Asians through a partnership with APPNA, and has been a strong initiative of APPNA.

We just had our own APPNA Day on the Hill under the able leadership of Dr. Kamran Rao thanks to the participation of a significant number of our members. Our message to our lawmakers was clearly presented - to help young Pakistani Physicians get their visas and start their residency training in a timely fashion.

Establishing the Coordinator position for our educational and healthcare committees has been a great help. In the past we have had multiple committees addressing these topics, but their effect can be multiplied with increased coordination. This year, APPNA is blessed to have coordinated educational and healthcare projects which will be very beneficial for our future.

The Pakistani University by APPNA, in North America, is a concept that is being extensively discussed and worked on. This is not something that can be done in a year. This is a tangible project that needs the attention and participation of all our members going forward. I urge every one of you to look into this seriously, and include your constructive comments.

We have been working on every issue that affects the foundation of APPNA. The APPNA Coming Together project, the University project in North America, and all the legislative changes are well thought out projects needed to make APPNA stronger, and require your support to be successful.

Unfortunately over years there has been a worsening divisiveness among various factions in APPNA. One of my goals is to bring all parties together who are able to express their ideology in a healthier manner and respect other's opinion and bring

their energy together for improvement of the organization that they all love. To materialize my ambition, I have already embarked a team of our esteemed past Presidents and senior members to identify and give ideas to rectify these differences. I am greatly obliged to my seniors who have been making sincere efforts in improving the harmony.

Your participation, and the way we interact with each other, will open the door to many thousands who are waiting outside the circle to join our mission.

It is time for us to work together. Let's behave in the most amicable way in order to show our best etiquette and be an example for everyone. The APPNA membership code of conduct is being presented in the council meeting for your approval.

Sincerely,

Iqbal Zafar Hamid, MD
President APPNA 2018