

Immediate Past president's report

It is always a privilege to serve APPNA in any capacity. But it was a distinct honor and humbling experience leadership position to serve as the president. I am thankful to APPNA council 2017 for its overwhelming support for multiple projects throughout the year 2017 towards our theme "Civic engagement through Community Service" a commitment that APPNA will be at forefront in providing humanitarian services to our neighbors in US communities as well as in Pakistan and on a Global scale.

New projects started in 2017 and continued in 2018:

The Cleft Lip-Palate Repair project "Muskan": Initiated by SWDR Committee of APPNA in collaboration with surgeons in 3 major cities of Faisalabad, Quetta and Karachi. 100 Cleft Lip surgeries have been performed at mere cost of \$200 for each surgery. I hope that this project will continue for years to bring a smile on faces of young children who otherwise would not have any recourse.

Corneal transplant project: This project of the Social Welfare Committee was heavily supported by KEMC class of 1985, began in 4 cities in Pakistan and at a cost of \$250 each, 340 corneal transplant surgeries have been done in Lahore, Multan, Karachi, Faisalabad, Sialkot and Peshawar. \$110,000 were raised for this project.

Educational Initiatives by APPNA MERIT: The Child Psychiatry certification for adult psychiatrists has begun on line. It will become a specialty-focused partnership for educators in the U.S. over the next decade. We hope to add more specialties in the future. APPNA MERIT had identified and signed MOU with 4 institutions in December 2017, to improve medical education, post-graduate training and healthcare delivery. These institutions are National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS), Army Medical College Rawalpindi, KPK Government, and College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan. APPNA also facilitated MOU between Medtronics and CPSP to provide specimens for interventional cardiology fellowship training in Pakistan.

Edhi-APPNA Outpatient Clinic: APPNA has provided \$50,000 to the Edhi Foundation for a healthcare clinic in Lyari, Karachi through the generosity of Mr. Javed Anwer, a friend of APPNA who donated the money to APPNA for this project.

Updates on USA National Food Pantry Program:

APPNA started a new venture of National food pantry project in 2017. The goal of this project is to empower APPNA members in their communities and increase their community involvement. 16 Local chapters and component societies collected \$40,000 while matching gift of \$55,560 were arranged by APPNA. Chapters chose their area food pantry so that they can develop bridges in their communities and increase volunteering opportunities. Our donations have gone to Food Pantries in Washington DC and 16 States including Virginia, Maryland, Tennessee, Texas, Alabama, Michigan, Arizona, Iowa, Florida, North Carolina, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Minnesota, Illinois, and Kentucky. We feel that we have achieved our target last year by reaching nearly \$100,000 in donations for Food Pantry throughout the US.

Program will be continued this year with \$10,000 left over from 2017 and \$7,781 saved from budget of APPNA journal 2017. I deeply appreciate support from Our President Elect Dr. Naseem Shekhani.

Updates on Free Mobile Clinics In USA:

After unanimous approval from Council in the Fall meeting 2017, MOU was signed with ICNA Relief USA for mutual collaboration. APPNA sponsors and meeting revenues were earmarked to purchase four Mobile Health units at the cost of \$75,000 each. These mobile clinic units are fitted with state-of-the-art medical equipment and will be used as free health clinic on a regular basis, while they will be used for disaster relief work in times of need anywhere a calamity strikes in USA. It is planned to station them in northeast, Midwest, Houston and Florida at this time. ICNA Relief will provide maintenance for the units and local chapters will coordinate healthcare services through its

volunteers. At this time 2 units are fully equipped and ready to serve, first unit was inaugurated on March 30, 2018 in Baltimore, MD during ICNA convention. Vendor is working on 3rd unit and 4th unit will be ordered soon.

Updates on CABL Amendments:

APPNA council 2017 approved 2 amendments to APPNA CABL during fall council meeting.

1. To get the election cycle back to spring, ending in summer for starting next year.
2. Voting membership could be attained only by those who have full medical license. The two years current restriction needed to be lifted and that would allow full privileges of the membership right at the time when one became member. The resident and fellow could only become voting members if they have full license.

Approved amendments will be presented to GB meeting during annual summer convention 2018 for approval.

Updates on APPNA Foundation:

In 2017 \$50,000 was added to APPNA foundation bringing the total amount to \$94,000 as well as \$50,000/year has been arranged for next 3 years to be added to the foundation account with courtesy of ZT Wealth.

RESA Updates:

ACCME Accreditation: APPNA lost its status as an accredited provider of CME programs for a third time in 2015. Last year, we were able to regain our status with diligent and hard work by RESA Committee and the central office.

ACP Endorsement: For the first time in history of APPNA and Pakistan, our 2017 APPNA Annual Winter Meeting was officially endorsed by the American College of Physicians. This is a unique honor, and attests to the high-quality program submitted to the ACP Council by the chair of the RESA Committee.

Membership issues:

Last year some APPNA members brought up concerns regarding eligibility of certain APPNA members who were made LTM within the last few years after the revised eligibility criteria was approved by the council. I had sent that to membership committee which asked the members in question to provide proof of their eligibility and subsequently CABL was asked to give its opinion and finally after due deliberation E&GC unanimously gave its recommendations that those LTM who do not fulfill membership criteria should be changed to associate/affiliate membership. It was approved by the APPNA BOT. Membership committee of this year is supposed to implement this decision.

Dear APPNA Family, each one of the above-mentioned ventures would not be possible without your support and help. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all APPNA members who contribute with their time, money and other support and, surgeons, physicians in Pakistan and their support staff who help us tremendously and make it easier for us in our mission. Last but not the least, kudos and many thanks to Chair and Co-chairs and committee members of APPNA for putting in countless hours of selfless volunteer work and making a difference. We hope to continue working together for the betterment of humanity everywhere and keep the spirit of Civic engagement through Community Service alive. Let us keep working for a better tomorrow. I hope to continue with my involvement in APPNA for years to come.

Sajid Chaudhary, MD.

Immediate Past President APPNA, 2018