

Report on Current Status of APPNA MERIT and Vision 2019:

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Six areas of FOCUS (Big 6)

- I. Online Educational Courses
 - II. Visiting Faculty Program
 - III. Clinical Program development
 - IV. Annual Conferences and workshops
 - V. Research Collaborative Network
- Annual MERIT conference in Pakistan

1. Weekly Online Lectures:

- a. we have a long-standing history of delivering online lectures once a week that was started as far back as 2007-8 with multiple institutional partners. Currently I believe there are 30 plus institutions which are still within this program and have a dedicated place and a computer and a way to promote the lectures. However, this information has not been verified.
- b. Currently the lectures are being given randomly based on the availability of the speaker and it's a topic of his or her choice. There is no organized structure of locality. This needs to improve with the Grand round once a month and curriculum based and specialty-oriented slots. The feedback system and evaluation will be part of elevating its status to CME for both lecturer and attendees.

I believe that with further improvement this can continue to be a strength of APPNA MERIT in a good way to promote new update and research and good quality information and can be recorded to build curriculum for online lecture database.

Plan: A subcommittee has been approved in Feb 2019

2. Visiting faculty program.

- a. We know many of us visit Pakistan and we give lectures through personal Alumni contacts in our Alma Maters or through other personal contacts.
- b. However, there is no way of keeping track of how many people are visiting who are available to give lectures how many lectures are actually happening and which institutions are interested in those lectures.
- c. The idea is to develop some kind of matching platform where a person visiting to Pakistan can submit his specialty, dates of interest and location of interest and a local institutional partner can be matched.

Plan: We already have started with the visiting faculty matching with local institutions on our new website www.appnamerit.com

2- A subcommittee of MERIT will monitor this program

3. APPNA ACADEMY:

- a. One of the new initiatives this year have been the concept of online medical education Academy, a place of continuing medical education of excellence.
- b. We would like to develop short courses which are goal oriented in in different specialties that will be hosted on line and can be accessed by various physicians and students in Pakistan.
- c. These courses can be as basic as general introduction courses for medical students or could be advanced skills directed towards continuing education for practicing physician.
- d. These courses however will all be organized and structured with clear objectives.
- e. They will be developed by the subspecialist with high quality education and they will be offered in a virtual APPNA Academy.
- f. They will offer a certificate of completion and continue medical education credit for those core computing courses.

g. We also have request from some local partners to develop online educational courses as part of their curriculum. And it is possible that some of these courses that we do can be branded or rebranded and given to a local institution to be used in their own curriculum based on their own structure.

Plan: The APPNA Academy has been created in our new Website www.appnamerit.com and will host not only certification courses but also archive all MERIT weekly lectures and all APPNA meeting CME.

2- A MERIT subcommittee was formed in Feb 2019 to monitor this.

4. RESEARCH MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

a. The idea is to develop a platform where anyone doing research in Pakistan in any topic can look up and find a mentor relevant to his research from us to get guidance on study design or data gathering data analysis and writing a manuscript and submission of manuscript.

Plan: We have match making function on our new website www.appnamerit.com connecting Pakistani research proposals to the US APPNA mentors. The project already has 12 requests for projects and two manuscripts revision requested that needs to be matched with the relevant faculty.

2. A MERIT subcommittee formed in Feb 2019 will monitor this project.

5. CLINICAL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

a. We have an ongoing project with Lady Reading hospital in Peshawar to provide education and clinical care in Intensive Care with Intensivists, not only providing clinical care to the patient but also adopting guidelines, developing teams such as nurses and doctors to fill in the gaps in good ICU care in in KPK.

b. The other project that we have similarly explored. Is developing a Center of Excellence in neurology in KPK and that project have been designed with an idea to have a team of experts who visit Pakistan and then provide also online guidance and training and education to develop expertise in subspecialties in neurology.

c. The stroke team project is being started as a pilot research project in three centers. This will lay the foundation for delivering stroke care according to the US guidelines in most hospitals without putting extra recourses.

d. there are other institutional partners who are interested in similar programs development with visiting faculty.

e. We have explored various funding resources including government funding including institutional funding and through Higher Education Commission of Pakistan who has a visiting faculty program that has been utilized by APPNA MERIT in the past multiple times including more recently last year in 2017

Plan: On going project-based progress will be monitored.

6- Annual MERIT conference in Pakistan focused on Research and clinical skills development:

MERIT is working to find National partners in Pakistan such as HEC, NIH or PHRC to hold an annual conference which will bring international researcher and Academicians around the globe particularly from APPNA to come together on one platform and address much needed venues for excellent research and skill transfer.

Plan: A subcommittee of MERIT is formed in Feb 2019.