

AKUAANA has had a productive year so far. More than 200 people attended the Annual Alumni meeting in Dallas, TX. This was one of the highest numbers of attendees. At the same time AKUAANA celebrated its 25th year since its conception in 1993.

Our membership has grown considerably and many members are APPNA members and participate in APPNA committees. Two of them, Dr Khawar Kermani and Dr Saema Mirza are also local chapter presidents.

In 2017 many AKUMC alumni were affected by Hurricane Harvey. At the recommendation of those alumni, AKUAANA raised \$10,000 for the Mayor of Houston Hurricane Harvey fund as a true testament to our alumni community.

We have been actively involved in the APPNA advocacy committee assisting Dr Rao Ali. The committee assisted 20 AKUMC graduates with J-1 visa issues successfully. Dr Habib Chotani has been leading successful efforts for the APPNA food pantry project. This year he is partnering with APPNA DMV and has already raised money for a donation to the local food pantry.

Three main projects are worthy of mention.

1. Ibrahim Hyderi Clinic KHI: efforts for this were led by our immediate past president and EC member, Dr Habib Chotani. The clinic is led by an AKU alumnus Dr Anita Zaidi '88. The goal was to support treatment for anemia in pregnant women, directly impacting infant mortality and perinatal morbidity. The estimated cost to support the clinic is \$17000/year. AKU alumni raised \$70,000 for this clinic. so far 2000 women have been screened. 100% have received oral iron supplementation and more than 50% have received iron infusion for moderate and severe anemia.

2. We also formed an ad-hoc Elective Committee that addressed the concerns and needs of both AKU alumni who provide elective opportunity, and AKUMC students seeking electives. A Position statement was published on our web page as a guidance for both to follow due process. The position statement was shared with the alumni attending the annual meeting as well. The statement was a result of a survey done by the elective committee members, Dr Ali Thaver, Dr Sameer Ur Rehman, Dr Eesha Khan, Dr Haider Warraich and Dr Majid Shafiq. The survey of 101 AKUMC students showed that most students were concerned about finding an elective experience. Almost 75% pointed out financial constraints for electives in the US. Most importantly 83% were not aware of competencies assessed during electives in the US. As a result of this a lecture was delivered via web to AKUMC students to discuss etiquettes and goals of US electives, including competencies that are assessed.

3. Finally, AKUAANA launched its first alumni collaboration by creating an AKUAANA-JRM Scholarship fund. JRM Foundation, a philanthropic organization founded by Dr Fahim Rahim '97 and Dr Naeem Rahim '98, has generously provided an initial donation to help fund electives in North America for deserving AKUMC Financial Aid students. Additional funds will be available as a dollar-for-dollar match for any donations AKUAANA receives from other alumni for the AKUAANA-JRM Scholarship Fund.

Namirah Jamshed, AKUAANA President 2018