

Dear Fellow Iqbalians – Asalaam-o-Aliekum,

On Friday July 7 2017, AIMCAANA held its Annual Dinner at Rosen Creek Resort, Orlando, FL at the auspicious occasion of its 20th Anniversary! More than 160 Iqbalians and their family members attended the Dinner program. Dr. Hafiz Imran (Secretary, AIMCAANA), delivered the opening speech and the agenda. I gave the Presidential Address in which I described AIMCAANA's most important projects, both in Pakistan and the US. These projects include Med Wish, JAIDE Units I/II, JHL Oncology Suite, Zakat fund for medicines, APPNA Merit Award for Medical Students, among many others.

I also highlighted efforts from Dr. Babar Cheema, Dr. Azmat Piracha and Dr. Naeem Haider for leading effort in 2016 to raise \$110,000 for Dr. Naveed Ashraf's family. Dr. Naveed Ashraf, a beloved Iqbalian and supporter of AIMCAANA, passed away earlier this year after hard-fought battle with glioblastoma multiforme. The monies will be utilized for educational funds for his three daughters.

I then highlighted the following new projects requiring fund-raising this year:

- IQBAL Loan Scheme (**\$20,000/annually**): Increase support to 8-10 eligible young Iqbalians seeking graduate medical education. Notification to go our July 21, 2017.
- AIMCAANA Endowment Fund (**\$50,000**): I personally committed \$5,000 this year.
- AIMCAANA Annual Research Award (**\$10,000/annually**): for 1-2 Iqbalians in US graduate medical education – I have personally committed \$5,000/year for this effort for the next 5 years. Applications will be due by August 31 every year and evaluated by the AIMCAANA Academic/research Committee.
- AIMCAANA Healthcare Access and Empowerment Projects (**\$25,000**): We will identify Iqbalians working in smaller cities and rural areas, AIMCAANA Citizen's Committee will liaise with them for capital project needs. First project identified with Dr. Talha Zubair (AIMC '92) to help buy X-ray machine in Tehsil Alipur, District Muzaffargarh (no access for 150 km radius).
- APPNA Food Pantry collaboration (**\$5,000**): APPNA will match 50%, partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank.

Dr. Hassan Majeed presented the financial summary for the year 2016 and President-elect Shahzad Iqbal presented a report about visa problems facing Pakistani medical graduates seeking residencies in the US and his leadership efforts for the APPNA Young Physicians Committee. The chief guests of the program were Ms. Karen Armstrong, a widely-respected British writer on comparative religion, and Mr. Amin Hashwani, a renowned businessman and social activist.

Dr. Babar Cheema (Chair, APPNA Civic Engagement) discussed, with great emotion, the untimely death of Dr. Naveed Akhtar and how the AIMCANNNA community came together to support him last year. He then introduced Dr. Asif Mahmood, a physician of Pakistani origin, now running for lieutenant governor of California, also addressed the audience.

Perhaps the most important part of the meeting was seeing Iqbalians showing mutual personal respect as well as mutual support for the wider community. To deepen this feeling, several older graduates, from the time when the campus was located on Birdwood Road, attended and were joined by some of the college's most recent graduates, all united in the Iqbalian spirit.

At the conclusion, there was a fund raiser for AIMCANNNA in which alumni contributed almost \$45,000 in cash and \$25,000 in pledges. For the Iqbalians who were gracious with their pledges, please send your checks written to AIMCAANA to Dr. Asif Mahmood (Executive Director) on 11901 Ruby Ridge Court, Woodbridge, VA, 22192. I would also urge Iqbalians who have not yet donated, please help us honor our commitments and fund these projects – we cannot accomplish anything without your support!!

Yours sincerely,

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