

My fellow Iqbalians,

This is a special year for AIMCAANA as we will be celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The theme of this year's AIMCAANA agenda has been inclusivity of the membership, improving collaborations with APPNA projects/committees and further our commitment to projects at our alma mater. We held our first AIMCAANA Retreat at the APPNA Spring Meeting held in Philadelphia, PA in April 2017. The meeting was attended by 25 Iqbalians and several new initiatives were discussed. This year, the immigrant community in the US is facing challenges it has not encountered in decades and would not have expected to do so in the 21st century. Although the initial scare of a travel ban was averted by our strong judicial system, there is certainly a shift in US policy that is making non-immigrant visas difficult to get for Pakistani citizens. There has been a wave of B1/B2 and J1 visa rejections, like the scale that was perhaps seen in 2003. AIMCAANA has rallied around APPNA committees (YPC, Advocacy Committee, Civic Engagement Committee, etc.) to lend maximum support:

- We will be starting an immigration fee support scheme for young Iqbalians seeking graduate medical education (GME) in the US.
- We are expanding the IQBAL loan scheme, by increasing number of recipients to 8-10 eligible young Iqbalians every year (from 4-5 recipients last year).
- We will be establishing an annual AIMCAANA Research Award for Iqbalians in US residencies and fellowships that will help bolster their academic careers.
- One major aim this year is to raise monies to raise the AIMCAANA Endowment and ensure long-term viability and ongoing success of our Alumni association.

**Details of these initiatives will be shared at the Summer Alumni Dinner on July 7, 2017. We already have more than 120 tickets sold for our Alumni dinner and hotel rooms are going fast, please register as soon as possible!!**

- In keeping with our commitment to partner with APPNA Civic Engagement Committee, AIMCAANA has pledged to raise \$2000 for the APPNA Food Pantry program, please send your donations via check (payable to APPNA) to 3860 Sedgwood Circle, Charlotte, NC. We are going to have volunteering activities at and make our donations to Second Food Harvest Bank.
- We are also revamped our website to make it more user-friendly. Current AIMCAANA members will be able to create their online profiles and pay dues online. Iqbalians who are interested in joining AIMCAANA would be able to do so using the online portal. Any donations via the website will generate an automated email with details about the 501c(3) status that can be utilized for tax-filing.
- We will also be helping our membership organize their landmark anniversary (10/15/20/25 year anniversaries, etc.) celebrations as part of the APPNA Winter meeting later this year.

AIMCAANA, in partnership with DOGAANA, will also be hosting the world renowned religious scholar and commentator Karen Armstrong in the APPNA Social Forum being held on Friday afternoon July 7, 2017.

I am looking forward to seeing all of you in 3 weeks from now at the 2017 APPNA Summer Convention in Orlando, Florida. It has been a distinct privilege to be serving as the President of our alumni association this year.

Yours sincerely,

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President AIMCAANA 2017

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