A Message from the Program

Welcome to the exciting issue of the Johns Hopkins-Afghanistan-Pakistan International Collaborative Trauma and Injury Research Training Program (JHU-AfPak ICTIRT). We are thrilled to announce the new cycle of our training program, JHU-AfPak ICTIRT. The goal of the program is to strengthen research capacity on trauma and injuries in Afghanistan and Pakistan through an innovative model of sustainable capacity development. In the new cycle we not only extended our reach to new institutions and country but we have broadened our long-term training program by incorporating a four-year postgraduate fellowship culminating in a PhD in injury research at Aga Khan University.

We started 2018 by welcoming the new cohort of master’s fellows from Afghanistan and first doctoral fellow who will be working to receive their respective degrees with concentration in trauma and injury control. We continue to look forward to building injury and trauma research in Pakistan, Afghanistan and the region through the work of our alumni and newest members.

Over the past few months, our program has been busy with a range of training, research and capacity development activities. Our alumni have been busy sharing their work with the injury and trauma research community. Many of our alumni presented their work at the 1st International Emergency Medicine Conference in Islamabad, Pakistan and the 9th International Biennial Conference of Orthopedic Association of SAARC Countries.

Our program hosted two advanced workshops at Aga Khan University: a workshop on preparing grant applications and one on implementation research led by Drs. Asad Latif and Nukhba Zia. This past summer two of our alumni traveled to Baltimore, USA where they participated in the Global Road Safety Leadership Course at Johns Hopkins. We are proud of our alumni for their passion for contributing to the field of injury and trauma research.

Thank you to our colleagues and partners who have worked with the program to build the network of injury and trauma researchers in Pakistan and Afghanistan. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to collaborate with you in the field of injury and trauma research.

Adnan A. Hyder, MD MPH PhD
Junaid A. Razzak, MD PhD
Nadeem Ullah Khan, MBBS DABIM
We are delighted to announce that our program welcomed three new trainees this January: two master’s and one doctoral trainee. Two of the trainees are from Afghanistan and joined the Master of Science in Health Policy and Management program at Aga Khan University (AKU). Throughout the two years of their program, they will participate in courses, seminars, independent studies and visit key agencies relevant to trauma and injury; at the end of the program they will earn master’s degree with a concentration in Trauma and Injury Control. The third trainee joined the 4-year post-graduate fellowship that will culminate in Doctorate in Population and Public Health with a concentration in Trauma and Injury Control.

Masters Trainees

Asrar Ali

Asrar Ali is from Kabul, Afghanistan and received his Bachelor in Science of Nursing from the Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery in 2015 and then completed a one-year post-graduate training as an intern nurse at the Aga Khan University Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan. In the future, Asrar plans to work in the field of injury prevention, specifically in road safety, and hopes to integrate evidence from multidisciplinary public health research in the field of road safety.

Umerdad Haideri

Umerdad Haideri is from Kabul, Afghanistan and received his Bachelor in Science of Nursing from Aga Khan University School of Nursing and Midwifery in 2015. After graduating, Umerdad moved to Kabul, Afghanistan where he was in-charge of the Catheterization Laboratory at the French Medical Institute for Children where he became interested in advocating for quality care and patient safety in the hospital setting. Through the JHU-AfPak ICTIRT fellowship, Umerdad wants to focus his research on the role of cost-effective health interventions for reducing the burden of injury mortality and improving the management injury patients.

Doctoral Trainee

Dr. Shahan Waheed

Dr. Shahan Waheed is an emergency physician, clinical researcher and educator. Having trained at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan, Shahan currently works as a Consultant and Senior Instructor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at Aga Khan University Hospital. His areas of interest include brain injuries, injury research, environmental disasters, and injury prevention. By participating in the JHU-AfPak ICTIRT fellowship, Shahan hopes to contribute to improving trauma and injury research in Pakistan and reducing the burden of injury morbidity and mortality by developing cost-effective intervention strategies.

Please join us in welcoming our three new trainees!
WORKSHOPS

Preparing competitive grant applications
The JHU-AfPak ICTIRT Program team at AKU together with Dr. Junaid Razzaq (co-PI) and Dr. Junaid Bhatti, Scientist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Sunnybrook Research Institute in Canada facilitated an advanced workshop Preparing a Research Funding Application for North American Granting Agency. This three-day workshop was held at AKU in November 2017 and sought to simulate a research funding application preparation with JHU-Pakistan ICTIRT alumna, Emergency Department faculty, residents and full-time researchers. The workshop included the following three sessions: (1) Finding suitable funding opportunities for research questions; (2) Preparing a research grant application; and (3) Navigating a grant application management system. Throughout the workshop, participants worked with instructors on their original ideas to develop an application for an upcoming research funding announcement by the National Institutes of Health. A total of 18 participants attended the workshop.

Implementation research
On December 29, 2017, Dr. Asad Latif (Core Faculty) Assistant Professor at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health and Dr. Nukhba Zia, a Doctoral Candidate at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health travelled to Karachi, Pakistan to conduct advanced workshop Implementation research – what is known and what is new? The main objective of the workshop was to: (1) understand basic principles of implementation research; (2) introduce key theories, tools and methods related to implementation research; and (3) apply the concept of implementation research to injury intervention. The workshop took place at AKU and targeted graduate students in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Health Policy and Management, and clinical residents and nurses with focus on public health related work. In all, 16 participants attended the workshop.

JHU-Pakistan ICTIRT PROGRAM ALUMNI UPDATES

The program alumna and team members have been active in disseminating their work in the field of injury prevention far beyond the program and AKU.

- On September 9 and 10, 2017, JHU-Pakistan ICTIRT alumna participated in the inaugural International Emergency Medicine Conference at Shifa International Hospital in Islamabad, Pakistan. Dr. Junaid Razzaq (co-PI) delivered a talk on the Importance of Measurement and Research in Emergency Department; Dr. Nadeem Ullah Khan (alumna and co-PI) delivered a talk on the Journey of Emergency Medicine Training Program in Pakistan; Dr. Uzma Rahim Khan (alumna and Core Faculty) spoke about Embedding Research into Emergency Care – Practical Solutions. Dr. Uzma Khan with Dr. Khusro Shamim also co-led the poster presentation Tip over dangers for children in our homes: Data from Emergency Departments; Ms. Rubaba Naem (alumna) is a lead author of this abstract. Dr. Maleeha Naseem (alumna) presented a poster on Identification of factors associated with 30 day mortality of road traffic crash victims at three tertiary care hospitals in Karachi, which is part of Dr. Naseem’s dissertation work.

- Mr. Farhad Ali (alumna) and Ms. Rubaba Naem (JHU-AfPak ICTIRT AKU team member) participated in the

Global Road Safety Leadership Course from July 29 to August 12, 2017 in Baltimore, USA. The course, which aims at building leadership capacity to design, advocate for and implement effective road safety programs and policies, was organized by the Johns Hopkins International Injury Research Unit and the Global Road Safety Partnership. Mr. Ali spoke highly of the course and said that he has started to incorporate theoretical and conceptual knowledge from the course into his work on road traffic injuries in Pakistan.
ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The JHU-Pakistan Fogarty International Collaborative Trauma and Injury Research Training (ICTIRT) Program is a partnership between the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (USA) and Aga Khan University (Pakistan) supported by a grant from the John E. Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes for Health, Department of Health and Human Services. The Fogarty Center’s mission is to address the growing burden of morbidity and mortality in the developing world due to trauma and injury.

The long-range vision of the Johns Hopkins-Pakistan ICTIRT is to build human resources, research infrastructure and appropriate policies for acute care and prevention and control of injuries and trauma in Pakistan to serve not only the country but also the South Asian region and the Middle East as well.

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