## DENTAL TRIBUNE

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#### JULY-AUGUST 2021 - Issue No. 04 Vol.8



An exclusive interview with Dr Qaiser Ali Baig

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ADA not backing compulsory COVID-19 jabs



Why emotional intelligence in dentistry is ...

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## Transparency International recommends PMC to cancel MDCAT

DT Pakistan Report

SLAMABAD - The Transparency International Pakistan (TIP) has declared the tendering process of the upcoming MDCAT by the Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) as complete violation of Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) rules and recommended to cancel and re-invite it, Dental Tribune Pakistan learnt recently.

The TIP in its letter written to the PMC has mentioned violations of several PPRA rules in awarding the MDCAT contract to the private company allegedly established after the deadline of the advertisement.

"The complete process of tendering is in violation of PPRA Rules 2004," said the TIP letter available with Dental Tribune Pakistan.

The TIP also said that PMC following the PPRA rule number 13 did not issue complete bid documents, did not post the evaluation report, did not post the contract on PPRA website as per rule 47 and there is no information that whether it furnished the compliance report with NAB or not.

According to the letter, the TIP said, "based on the authenticity of documents, TI Pakistan is of the view that Prima facia PMC has committed mis-procurement



under rule No 50, by violating PPRA Rules 7, 13, 23, 35, 47 and awarded this contract without declaring the information on PPRA website. The tender may be cancelled and re-invited accordance. Single Member Company, appear in the test, while the

with requirement of PPRA rule 2004."

The PMC had allegedly awarded the MDCAT conducting contract worth Rs115,500,000 million to a (SMC) SOAR Testing and Evaluation Platform (SMC-PVT) Limited (TEPS).

The PMC had advertised that approximately 175,000 students in August 2021 will

said company was incorporated 10 days after the advertisement deadline. Meanwhile, the company after winning the contract in the month of June submitted an undertaking of release of Rs115,500,000 in advance and to adjust the amount from

The TIP also forwarded the copies of the violations made to the Prime Minister House, Chairman NAB, Auditor General of Pakistan, MD PPRA and registrar Supreme Court of Pakistan and requested them to take action on it according to their mandate.

The TIP mentioning the PPRA rule no 13, said that response time to the advertisement is minimum 15 days, whereas, PMC has provided only seven days. According to PPRA rule no. 13, all advertisements or notices shall expressly mention the response time allowed for that particular procurement along with the information for collection of bid documents which shall be issued till a given date, allowing sufficient time to complete and submit the bid by the closing date.

According to NAO 1999, section 33 B, all ministries, divisions and attached departments of the federal government, all departments of provincial and local governments, statutory

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#### **DELTA VARIANT ON THE RISE**

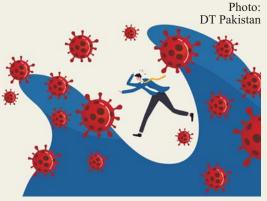
#### 'Pakistan is heading towards fourth wave'

DT Pakistan Report

SLAMABAD - People should mark Eid-ul-Adha in a "limited, closed environment" said Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Health Dr Faisal Sultan recently.

As per local news channel, the premier's aide spoke about the alarming rise in the new Delta variant cases of the coronavirus, saying the data shows that the fourth is starting in Pakistan.

Continued on Page 11



### 'China to provide 100mn doses of COVID vaccine by year end'

DT Pakistan Report

SLAMABAD - China's Ambassador Nong Rong recently called on President Arif Alvi and conveyed that the country would provide 100 million doses of COVID vaccine to Pakistan by year-end.

The ambassador informed that China would provide six million COVID vaccine doses this week while 100 million vaccine doses would be provided by the end of the year.

He also referred to the recently held Strategic Dialogue between the two countries foreign ministers last month. He expressed the hope that the Dialogue would further push forward the relations between the two countries.

According to a handout released on Radio Pakistan, both sides emphasized the need for making collective efforts to promote peace, prosperity, and development in the region. The meeting also underlined



the need to enhance cooperation in the field of Information Technology.

The president reiterated Pakistan's commitment to "One-China Policy" and firm support to China on core issues of its national interest besides also lauding the country's support for Pakistan's core national issues like the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, Nuclear Suppliers Group and Financial Action Task Force.

Arif Alvi underlined that Pakistan is committed to the timely completion of the CPEC project that has huge potential to contribute to

the socio-economic development of Pakistan.

"Certain hostile players are not happy over the project and are trying to sabotage it, but they would not succeed as both iron brothers are strongly committed to implementing the project," he said.

The president underscored that the security of Chinese nationals working on various projects in Pakistan is the highest priority of Pakistan. The government is making all-out efforts for their protection and security.

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#### Moot blames tobacco industry for pushing children towards smoking

DT Pakistan Report

SLAMABAD - Pakistan National Heart Association (Panah) general secretary, Sanaullah Ghumman, said recently that children were the country's future, and the tobacco industry was adopting various tactics to push them towards smoking.



He said the tobacco industry misled policymakers in the name of generating more revenue by involving influential stakeholders, actors, singers and athletes.

"We all must expose this propaganda," he said while addressing a press conference organized by the association. "According to the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), the availability of cheap cigarettes in Pakistan

Continued on Page 11

#### DRAP cancels registration of conventional syringes

DT Pakistan Report

SLAMABAD - The Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) has recently cancelled the registration of conventional syringes as now only single-use syringes will be available across the country.

The authority said that the

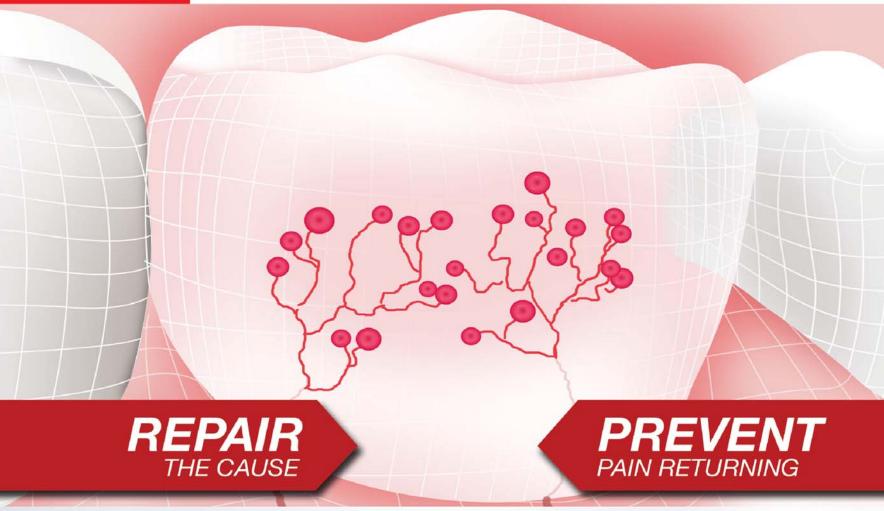
syringes were taken into effect to stop the spread of novel coronavirus and HIV/AIDS. The authority detailed that its medical device section cancelled the registration of 24 products of 21 firms. The DRAP also started bringing reforms and introduced an online application management system named



non-availability of conventional needles and syringes would stop its usage more than once. It added that auto-disable (single-use and disposable) syringes will now be available across the country. The restrictions on conventional Pakistan Integrated Regulatory Information Management. Moreover, the authority issued letters to the Pharma Bureau, Pakistan Pharmaceuticals and regional officers to use the online system.







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Relieves the pain of sensitive teeth <sup>†</sup>	<b>✓</b>	~
Inhibits Plaque and Calculus Buildup	<b>~</b>	



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will help us achieve preventive and oral health promotion regimes.

#### What are the causes of mouth diseases in Pakistan?

We are living in a world between commercialization, poverty and hunger. Branding even in food and products has shaken our oral health. The life patterns and practices have shifted the severity and pattern of diseases among individuals. We see different patterns of oral diseases linked to different socio-demographic and socio-political factors. Therefore, to control these diseases, we need to control the factors causing them to happen. Tobacco use, high sucrose diet, and poor oral hygiene will always remain

In Pakistan, community dentistry gets the limelight for a limited time in academia only. The true essence of this noble discipline lies in serving the community itself

officers or interns in tertiary care hospitals as well as in smaller hospitals located either outside the city or in its rural vicinities. Their house job should be supervised by senior faculty members, already deputed or hired in those areas. At this time, they can be offered attractive remunerations and provided with all necessities. Once they have served their house job or internship in different hospital settings,

## The potential of public health dentistry is exponential; Dr Qaiser Ali Baig

various post-graduation options locally and internationally after the completion of my undergraduate education. I happened to stumble upon an opportunity to flourish my skills in Research Governance, Global Health and Public Health Project Management, and I immediately seized that opportunity. This field was not everyone's cup of tea, so I decided to venture into something different and make space for myself there.

Exposure is the key to getting better at research. You will never know what the world is working on unless you collaborate with international researchers and educate yourself about their inclinations?

#### What is your opinion about the scope of Community Dentistry in Pakistan?

In the current scenario, unfortunately, in Pakistan, Community Dentistry gets the limelight for a limited time in academia only. The true essence of this noble discipline lies in serving the community itself. We rarely witness field trips and health camps specially designed to address prevalent dental public health-related issues. However, those are not enough to serve the purpose. In my opinion, scaling up an entire network of services will bring the change, starting with one National Oral Health Policy. It is time to realize the importance and integration of oral health into general health. Luckily our statistics are not in a horrible condition in all parameters, but we must ask ourselves that are we waiting for something bad to happen so our priorities can be shifted towards oral health? A multi-sectorial collaborative approach in the Ministries of Health, Information and Education will bring a trickledown effect to educate and serve the population at the grassroots level. Allocation of Public Health Dentist jobs in schools, dispensaries and hospitals by Dr Sonia Sameen

r Qaiser Ali Baig is currently serving as the Vice Principal of the Dow International Dental College, Dow University of Health Sciences. He received his professional education (BDS) at the Baqai Medical University. He pursued his graduate studies (MSc in Dental Public Health) in the UK at the University of London, England.

A skilled professional and a true educationist at heart, Dr Baig has many accolades to his name. He is the author of more than 22 research studies and a founding member of the IADR Pakistan Section. In 2008, Dr Qaiser developed the first-ever preventive dental OPD in any dental college in Lahore. He has received various awards, including an Outstanding Teaching Excellency Award from the DUHS in 2018. He has presented his studies in multiple conferences, both locally and internationally, for which he has gained significant recognition. In recognition of his efforts in dentistry in Pakistan, Dental Tribune Pakistan decided to share a conversation with Dr Qaiser Ali Baig himself.

eminent risk factors. We have to think out of the box to tackle the social extended factors contributing to the problem.

#### What steps can be taken to address the issues of people living in rural areas?

The biggest issue of Pakistani doctors and dentists is the brain drain. We don't see an equitable distribution of doctors but rather see them moving towards better opportunities, resulting in no service provision in rural areas. In my personal opinion, one thing that can be done which has already been in practice in a few countries, students, after graduating from dental school, must serve as house

they will be better equipped to practice in any part of the country. This scaling-up of networks will tackle human resources with minimal expenditure in small towns and rural areas. I think this is the part where feasibility and possibilities can be explored.

Public health dentistry is rarely the primary goal for most dentists, but the potential it carries is exponential "

#### What are the rising trends in dental research these days?

In my opinion, completing one well-formulated research project that contributes even the bare minimum to the literature of already published topics is better than conducting flawed research on novel ideas. On the other hand, this does not mean that people should keep on conducting KAB studies. Science has advanced into a phase where even the finest details are being looked into vigorously. We work on genomics, molecular epidemiology, technology, and material development in dentistry. Similarly, so many projects and so many horizons can be explored in research; it all depends on the topic that interests you.

## Do you think research at the undergraduate level has any worth? Would you recommend it to students?

Even if it is not worth publishing, researching at an undergrad level can provide students with an idea about the process in the future. If not for anything, then just for the sake of learning. You learn with trial and error. No one is born a skilled researcher. So, yes, I believe undergraduate students should conduct at least one research part of their academic activity.

Continued on Page 11





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#### **4TH BUMDC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2021**

## Health Care: challenges and innovation

University Medical and Dental College (BUMDC) recently organised the 4th International Conference themed "Health Care: Challenges and Innovation". It comprised of pre-conference workshops, poster presentations, webinars, scientific sessions, inauguration and closing ceremonies. Pre-conference workshops

The pre-conference workshops were conducted by both the medical and dental sections of BUMDC. Dr Shama Asghar and her team supervised and managed the dental conferences. The pre-conference sessions were held on "Bonding in Orthodontics", "Temporization for Fixed Prosthesis", "Screening of Hepatitis B and C" and "Rotary Endodontics. Dr Tabassum Ahsan, Prof. Dr Saman Hakeem, Prof. Dr Daud Mirza were the organisers of their respective workshops. At the same time, Dr Maria Habib, Dr Omair Majeed, Dr Farnaz Ilyas, Dr Talha Tanwir, Dr Afshseen Maqsood, Dr Hasan Hameed, Dr Meisha Gul facilitated them.

#### **Poster Presentation**

4th International BUMDC Head of Departments, students of







Conference, the poster presentation, was organised by Prof. Dr Hassan Ali. Twenty-five posters were presented by researchers from Medical, Dental and Allied Sciences

specialities. The Chief guest was Rear Admiral (R) Nasir Mehmood (HI) (M), Pro-Rector Research Innovation & Commercialization, BUMDC. All One of the key features of the the Director Generals, Principal, Dean,

BUMDC showed keen interest in the scientific posters and appreciated the presenters. In the end, certificates of Appreciation was distributed among the presenters.

#### **Inauguration Ceremony**

The 4th International BUMDC Conference inaugural ceremony was held triumphantly amid Covid -19 pandemic at BUMDC. Major General Aamer Ikram, (HI) (M), (SI) (M),

Executive Director, National Institute of Health(NIH), Major General Aamer Ikram, (HI) (M), (SI) (M), Executive Director, NIH, Prof. Dr Tipu Sultan, Chancellor, Malir University and Prof. Dr Syed Mehmood Haider, a renowned Maxillofacial Surgeon, were the chief guests and speakers of the event. Prof. Dr Ambreen Usmani, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences and Principal, BUMDC and Chairperson, Organizing Committee, moderated the event. She expressed her gratitude to the patron of the conference Vice -Admiral (R) Khalid Amin (HI) (M), Director General, BUMDC, for being immense support throughout the event.

An International webinar preceded the inaugural ceremony. The presenters for the webinar were Dr Jane Hislop, Academic Coordinator and Clinical Educator, Edinburg University, UK and Dr Nader M. Hamdan, Associate Professor, Consultant Periodontist and Dental Implant Surgeon Dalhousie University, Canada. They delivered the sessions on "The Role of wellbeing and compassion in Healthcare" and "Partial Extraction Therapy (PET) for

Continued on Page 11

#### BUMDC conducts clinical case presentation competition

Department of Prosthodontics, Bahria University Medical and Dental College (BUMDC), recently organized clinical case-based presentations. The competition was held amongst | competition was to indulge the

the final year BDS students posted in Prosthodontics

Dr Talha Tanveer, MClinDent, Prosthodontics, was the event's judge, and Prof. Dr Saman Hakeem, Head of

Department of Prosthodontics, BUMDC, presented the awards to the winner. The event was facilitated by Dr Fatima Hassan, Senior Registrar, Prosthodontics, BUMDC and Dr Asim Monpuri, Senior Registrar,

ARACHI - The Prosthodontics, BUMDC. All the preplanned outline students were judged based on their performance and the content of the presentations.

> Recognizing the need for research in dentistry, the concept behind this



clinical students in the research-based phenomena and acknowledge them about literature searches related to their clinical cases. The competition was based on their clinical cases. Each of those cases was made according to

provided to the students by the facilitator. The presentations incorporated history, examination, and framing of a problem list based on cast analysis, leading to treatment plans. Moreover, the final

> treatment was backed up by a literature search in case report studies. The presentations were followed by the interactive session between judges and the participants.

At the end of the competition, the winners, Shehzadi Rubab, followed by Ammara Noor and Saleha Mahmood, were awarded the Certificate of Appreciation for their excellent presentations skills. -PR

#### Dr Qurat ul Ain joins as Incharge of Research and Outreach Programs at AIMI

BBOTTABAD - Dr Qurat Ul Ain, Assistant Professor, Abbottabad International Medical Institute (AIMI), joined the Community Dentistry Department at the



Dental College of AIMI as In-charge of Research and Outreach Programs with effect from July 12, 2021. The purpose of the program was to improve learning, promote public engagement, and strengthen communities by addressing their societal needs. It also built partnerships between the communities and the educational institutions. -PR

#### **APPOINTMENT**

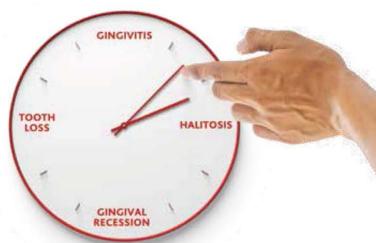
AHORE - Professor Dr Beenish Qureshi was recently appointed as Head of Department of Operative Dentistry, HITEC-IMS.



Prof. Beenish graduated from de'Montmorency College of Dentistry, University of Health Sciences (UHS), Lahore. She, later on, completed her residency and gained a Fellowship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons (FCPS) in Operative Dentistry. -PR

# PM-PK-PAD-21-00004 Date of preparation: March 2021

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## FJDC, TIH take part in the blood donation drive

ARACHI - Fatima Jinnah Dental College (FJDC) recently collaborated with The Indus Hospital (TIH) for a Voluntary Blood Drive at Azam Town General Hospital.

An awareness session was held the day before at FJDC's clinical campus. The instructor enlightened the potential donors with the entire blood donation process and its benefit in improved heart health, reduced cancer risk, and enhanced production of new blood cells. Students, faculty members and other volunteers

donated blood during the drive. Stations were set up, and TIH representatives initially took a medical history from the donors under strict WHO guidelines and SOPs. The process went very smoothly.

Certificates of appreciation and blood test results were given promptly to the donors the next day. FJDC and TIH thanked all the participants for making that drive successful. The purpose of this cause was to benefit Thalassemic and Cancer patients, who were always in dire need of blood for transfusion. -PR

## Dental College HITEC-IMS recommences on-campus academic activities

AXILA - HITEC-Institute of Medical Sciences (HITEC-IMS) Dental College recently resumed on-campus classes and other activities. The decision took place after ensuring that all the staff and students were fully vaccinated.



The dental college students were anxiously waiting for the resumptions of their classes and rotations in different clinical departments so that they would start honing their skills again. During the lockdown, modern methods and technology like online teaching came to aid. They helped fill the vacuum created by the shutting down of institutes, but on-campus

Continued on Page 10

## Experts raise awareness at Hepatitis B vaccination program



The program took place under the facilitation of Maj (R) Azhar Iqbal and in collaboration with Vikor Enterprises. Dr Muhammad Mudassar Saleem, Associate Professor, Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMS), HITEC-IMS, Dr Maimoona Siddiq, Assistant Professor, Department of OMS, HITEC-IMS, Dr Zuhair Mehdi, Registrar, Department of OMS and Dr Farhat Zahid, Department of OMS, HITEC-IMS, arranged the activity.

The dental college is striving for the betterment and safety of the faculty and staff. The program's purpose was to raise awareness about the Hepatitis B virus.

Editorial note: Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is highly infectious and causes serious health problems worldwide. It is a major infectious hazard for healthcare workers. Workers coming in contact with blood or blood-contaminated body fluids, therefore, should be vaccinated. Vaccine-induced antibodies are produced that provide immunity against clinical disease or detectable viremic HBV infection. -*PR* 

## DTMA announces the new executive body

AHORE - Dental Trade and Manufacturers Association of Pakistan (DTMA) recently announced its new executive body.

Ashraf Ali Ghauri, President, Liaquat Ali Humayun, Chairman, Azhar Ali Khan, General Secretary, Farrukh Hamid, Vice Chairman, Mazhar Hussain Mirza, Vice President Punjab, Rashid Chugtai, Vice President KPK, Nasir Feroz, Vice President Sindh, Saleem Hayee, Secretary Finance and Dr Wasib Hanif, Joint Secretary were the members of the new executive body with the respective designations.

DTMA has been a non-profit organisation founded in 2002 by a group of manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and suppliers of products to provide services to the dental profession and safeguard the mutual interests of the small community. -PR

## SFCC holds a dental pinning ceremony

EW MEXICO - Department of Dental Health, Santa Fe Community College (SFCC) recently conducted an SFCC Dental Pinning Ceremony at SFCC Campus Center.



Students received pins for completing different courses. Among them, 12 students received pins for getting a Certificate in Dental Assisting and seven students for completing the Expanded Functions Dental Auxiliary [EFDA] course. Two students were awarded an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) in Dental Health, and one student *Continued on Page 11* 

## SSCMS presents the Teaching Excellence Award

ARACHI - Prof. HR Sukhia, Principal, Dental College, Sir Syed College of Medical Sciences, SSCMS, granted Dr

Hijab Fatemah, Head of Department and Assistant Professor, Oral Biology, SSCMS, with the Sir Syed Dental Teaching Excellence Award 2021.



Dr Hijab has been a well-known Oral Biologist with years of teaching experience. The SSCMS admin has firmly recognized the hard work and devotion of the dental faculty in these hard times.

The dental faculty and students congratulated Dr Hijab on this milestone achievement and wished her the best. *-PR* 

## ADA not backing compulsory COVID-19 jabs

By Jeremy Booth Dental Tribune International

HICAGO, U.S. - The American Dental Association (ADA) says that dentists should be vaccinated against COVID-19 but has stopped short of backing compulsory inoculation within the oral care workforce. As the

recognize some workers cannot be vaccinated because of identified medical reasons and should be exempted from a mandate, they constitute a small minority of all workers."

The statement, which said that the number of experts and institutions that supported universal vaccination of health

The parties added: "While we | Dentists are essential health care providers whose leadership, counsel, and example will go a long way in building vaccine confidence in our nation," Klemmedson wrote. "Let's do our part to move public health forward. If you haven't already been vaccinated, please get vaccinated and encourage your



Almost 90% of U.S. dentists are fully vaccinated and ADA President Dr. Daniel J. Klemmedson says that dental professionals are doing their part to limit the spread of COVID-19. (Image: s-ts/Shutterstock)

Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2; continued to spread in the U.S., the association broke ranks with other health and medical groups by advocating for voluntary vaccination in order to show leadership and help to build nationwide vaccine confidence.

In late July, dozens of U.S. health associations and groups jointly called for COVID-19 vaccine mandates for all health care workers. In a statement, the more than 50 signatories wrote: "Due to the recent COVID-19 surge and the availability of safe and effective vaccines, our health care organizations and societies advocate that all health care and long-term care employers require their workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This is the logical fulfilment of the ethical commitment of all health care workers to put patients as well as residents of long-term care facilities first and take all steps necessary to ensure their health and wellbeing."

care workers was growing, was signed by influential health bodies including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Public Health Association.

Let's do our part to move public health forward remain hesitant 🤊

Dr. Daniel J. Klemmedson, ADA

In an email to ADA members, ADA President Dr. Daniel J. Klemmedson called on dentists to be vaccinated but said that the association was following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which currently does not recommend universal vaccination for health

"As we continue to hear about rising infection rates due to the Delta variant, I want to repeat to you what I noted in my December 2020 message: team members and patients to do the same."

No compulsory COVID-19 vaccination without full FDA clearance?

CDC has not recommended mandates for inoculation for COVID-19 for health care workers and, according to former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams, the agency is unlikely to do so until the vaccines have been fully approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. "We can't have mass mandates, we won'tyou're hearing this from the military and from other businesses-until you have full licensure of these vaccines." Adams told broadcasting network CBS on July 25. ADA health policy data shows that, in the U.S., close to 90% of dentists are fully vaccinated and that 93.4% have had at least one vaccine dose.

"Clearly, dental professionals are doing their part to limit the spread of the virus, but we must keep at it," Klemmedson wrote.

#### SIOHS shares insight on basics of research

ARACHI - Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) recently conducted a lecture on research methodology. The lecture titled 'Basics of Research Methodology' was conducted at the Sindh Institute of Oral Health Sciences (SIOHS), JSMU. Dr Ammar Ahmed Siddiqui, Associate Professor, Department of Community Dentistry, Bakhtawar Amin Medical and Dental College, Multan, supervised the lecture.



The FCPS trainees under the department of Operative Dentistry, Orthodontics and Prosthodontics, SIOHS, attended the event. The speaker addressed their queries regarding study designs and sample size calculation for their various research projects.

Professor Syed Yawar Ali Abidi, Dean of Dental Faculty, JSMU, Prof. Zubair Ahmed Abbasi, Principal, SIOHS, JSMU and Prof. Irfan Qamaruddin, Head of Department of Orthodontics, presented a certificate of appreciation to the speaker. -PR

#### SSCMS holds a workshop for dental students

ARACHI - The Continuing Dental Education (CDE) Department of Sir Syed College of Medical Sciences (SSCMS) recently held a workshop titled "Prevention & Rehabilitation in Dentistry".

Prof. HR Sukhia, Principal, Dental College, SSCMS, led the workshop with Dr Zain Rauf, Assistant Professor, Community Dentistry, SSCMS and Dr Syed Ali Raza, Assistant Professor, Community Dentistry, SSCMS.

Prof. HR Sukhia delivered the lecture on the role of

Photos: DT Pakistan

mini-implants in orthodontic anchorage. Dr Zain shared insights on the role of implants in modern dentistry and their impact on rehabilitation in hypodontia and anodontia. Whereas Dr Syed Ali Raza emphasized the role of implants in young patients to prevent extra-cutting in crowns and bridges. He also explained that early implant placement creates more stability of bone in the future. In the end, the admin of SSCMS greatly appreciated the efforts of the dental faculty in promoting CDE programs in the college. -PR