DENTAL TRIBUNE

The World's Dental Newspaper • Pakistan Edition

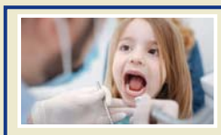
PUBLISHED IN PAKISTAN | pk.dental-tribune.com | MAY-JUNE 2021 - Issue No. 03 Vol.8

An exclusive interview with Prof. Nasir Ali Khan

INTERVIEW ►Page 4

Study finds SARS-CoV-2 vaccine hesitancy ...

NEWS ►Page 9



Asymptomatic pediatric dental patients as ...

NEWS ►Page 12

PM Imran Khan defers lockdown, seeks Pakistan Army's help in enforcing COVID-19 SOPs

DT Pakistan Report

Photo: DT Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Imran Khan recently deferred imposing a broad lockdown and sought help from the Pakistan Army in the enforcement of coronavirus SOPs.

He once again appealed to the masses to follow protocols, "else we will be facing the same situation India currently is in," he warned. "The situation is changing very fast and we might have to impose a lockdown in the days to come, which would be devastating for the economy and the poor."

A meeting of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) was held today with Prime Minister Imran Khan in the chair to review the prevailing coronavirus situation in the country and take a decision on imposing lockdown in cities with a high positivity ratio.

The session was attended by the chief ministers, ministers and chief secretaries of the provinces, who reviewed the latest COVID-19 numbers and decided to impose further restrictions as the third wave of coronavirus wreaks havoc in Pakistan.

"The government has expanded the capacity of hospitals during the past year. Had we not increased the facilities we might be facing a very bad situation," the prime minister said.

He said that if we strictly follow SOPs till Eid, we may not need to take the extreme steps India has been taking.

PM Imran also asked the ulema to play their role in creating awareness, like they had last Ramadan.

"Today, people are asking me to impose a lockdown, but we are not taking such an extreme step for now. I am more concerned about the poor and daily wagers," the PM explained.

New restrictions

Briefing the media about the decisions taken by the NCC, Federal Minister for Planning Asad Umar said a comprehensive plan will be prepared in consultation with the provinces in case lockdowns become necessary in certain cities.

"All schools will be closed in cities where the positivity ratio is above 5% till Eid. Classes 9-12 will also not be held in-person," he said. He further said that outdoor dining is also being banned till Eid and only takeaway is allowed. Indoor gyms have also been ordered to close down under the new restrictions.

Asad Umar said that markets will be closed by 6 p.m. except for essential services and a list will be issued of those businesses that are allowed to operate.

The federal minister said that a decision has also been taken to restrict office timings until 2 p.m. so that people can do Eid shopping easily within the time limits set by the government.

"The 50% work from home policy will continue," he added. He also urged the masses to not wait for the last three days of Ramadan for Eid shopping so as to avoid a rush in marketplaces. Regarding air travel restrictions, Asad Umar said a detailed policy is being made under which the number of passengers coming to Pakistan will be cut down. "[Matters relating to] passengers' testing and quarantine will also be decided," he said.

Pakistan, the minister said, is utilizing 90% of the oxygen already being produced, so the government is working to enhance capacity and will import the gas if needed.

Difficult decisions

Sharing details of the COVID-19 situation in Sindh, Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah said the provincial government had suggested imposing a ban on inter-provincial

Continued on Page 11

Dr Hassan and team bid adieu PDA Gujranawala

Biggest achievements includes first ever PDA House

DT Pakistan Report

GUJRANWALA - Dr Hassan Bashir and his team passed on the mantle to Dr Shahid Aman, who was elected as the new President of PDA Gujranwala. One of the most successful and professionally run branches of PDA conducted its elections and elected Dr Shahid Aman as its new president.

Cabinet PDA Gujranwala 2017-21

The outstanding tenure of Dr Hassan Bashir, as President of Pakistan Dental Association Gujranwala, completed its term, which was extended at PDA Gujranwala members' request to complete work on the PDA Welfare Complex (PDAWC).

PDA Gujranwala is a role model for all PDA's because of their dental community-centric approach and community welfare as the main objective of their work. Hassan Bashir and his cabinet took over PDA Gujranwala's reins four years ago with good intentions, a lot of prayers and backing of their senior members and commitment to do something worthwhile.

Dr Hassan has now passed on the mantle and takes pride that he and his cabinet were able to do justice with the trust bestowed by Gujranwala's dentists,

Continued on Page 11

PDA backs students, challenges PMC's 60% requirement

DT Pakistan Report

Photo: DT Pakistan

KARACHI - Pakistan Dental Association (PDA) recently submitted a counter-affidavit to confirm that set of pleas challenging the 60% marks condition for eligibility in written bachelors of dental surgery (BDS) admission test should be granted and found no objection in the application.

The official copy of the document available with Dental Tribune Pakistan read that Dr Mahmood Shah, president PDA, was aware of the case. It read that the Sindh Court should grant interim relief to students.

The document read, "No tangible and reasonable explanation has been given by Pakistan Medical Commission for this abrupt rise of MDCAT qualifying exam percentage."

The document further stated that the abrupt increase in merit leads to an admission crisis. "This decision of Pakistan Medical Commission (PMC) has created an acute admission crisis whereby approxiamately 650 BDS seats are lying vacant."

Earlier, The Sindh High Court issued notices on March 15 to the Pakistan Medical Commission over a set of pleas challenging the 60% marks condition for eligibility in written bachelors of dental surgery (BDS) admission test.

The petitioners contend that the PMC initiated its admission process but restricted students with below 60% marks in their intermediate exams from sitting for the entrance test.

The petition mentions that there are 690 BDS seats in the province, and 515 of them are vacant. During the hearing, the petitioners' counsel, Haider Waheed, argued that the minimum 60 per cent mark requirement was unjust with students.

He moved the court to issue a stay on the restriction. Upon inquiry, the court was informed that the petition had been filed by students, medical colleges, and a non-governmental organisation.

PMC representatives, however, stated that they had not received any notices yet. The court sought the entire BDS admission records and a reply from the PMC by the next hearing slated for March 22.

DRAP allows resumption of vaccination administration

DT Pakistan Report

Photo: DT Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - The Drug Regulatory Authority Pakistan (DRAP) has allowed recently the privately-owned Shifa International Hospital and Islamabad Diagnostic Centre (IDC) to resume the administration of coronavirus vaccination.

The regulator had authorised AGP Limited to be the first company to import Sputnik-V vaccine in Pakistan for private sales. On April 7, the DRAP had stopped both the centres from administering Sputnik V supplied by AGP Limited for deviating from the recommended vaccine storage temperature.

According to it, critical observations regarding deviation from recommended storage temperature (-18°C and below), which is mandatory to ensure safety and efficacy of the said biological product and absence of documentary evidence regarding authorised distributor/vaccine centres have been reported to the higher authorities.

However, the DRAP has, now, allowed both the facilities to continue the administration of the Sputnik vaccine and asked them to take necessary measurements to ensure documentation of storage conditions in accordance with the Emergency Use Authorisation. It also asked both of them to train their employees in handling the temperature of sensitive products.

NIH planning to develop single dose coronavirus vaccine in Pakistan

DT Pakistan Report

ISLAMABAD - The National Institute of Health (NIH) is working on a plan to develop a single-dose coronavirus vaccine for Pakistan.

"Our team is ready to undertake this task, while a Chinese team is already here to oversee the exercise," NIH Executive Director Major General Aamer Ikram told the National Assembly standing committee on national health services recently.

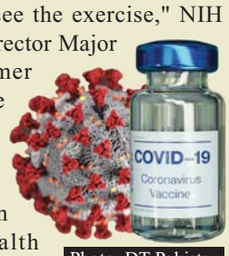


Photo: DT Pakistan

He said the NIH had carried out a clinical trial of Chinese COVID-19 vaccine CanSinoBio, placing the country among the first few to do so.

China had been formally asked to transfer the vaccine technology and raw material for the vaccine will reach

Continued on Page 11

DENTAL TRIBUNE
The World's Dental Newspaper · Pakistan Edition

Publisher and CEO
Syed Hashim A. Hasan
hashim@dental-tribune.com.pk

Editor Clinical Research
Dr. Inayatullah Padhiar

Editors Research & Public Health
Prof. Dr. Ayyaz Ali Khan

Editor - Online
Haseeb Uddin

Designing & Layout
Sheikh M. Sadiq Ali

Dental Tribune Pakistan
3rd floor, Mahmood Centre, BC-11,
Block-9, Clifton, Karachi, Pakistan.
Tel.: +92 21 35378440-2
Fax: +92 21 35836940
www.dental-tribune.com.pk
info@dental-tribune.com.pk

Dental Tribune Pakistan cannot assume responsibility for the validity of product claims or for typographical errors. The publisher also does not assume responsibility for product names or statements made by advertisers. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and may not reflect of **Dental Tribune Pakistan.**

International Headquarters

Publisher and Chief Executive Officer
Torsten R. Oemus

Chief Content Officer
Claudia Duschek

Dental Tribune International GmbH
Holbeinstr. 29, 04229 Leipzig, Germany
Tel.: +49 341 48 474 302
Fax: +49 341 48 474 173
General requests:
info@dental-tribune.com
Sales requests:
mediasales@dental-tribune.com
www.dental-tribune.com

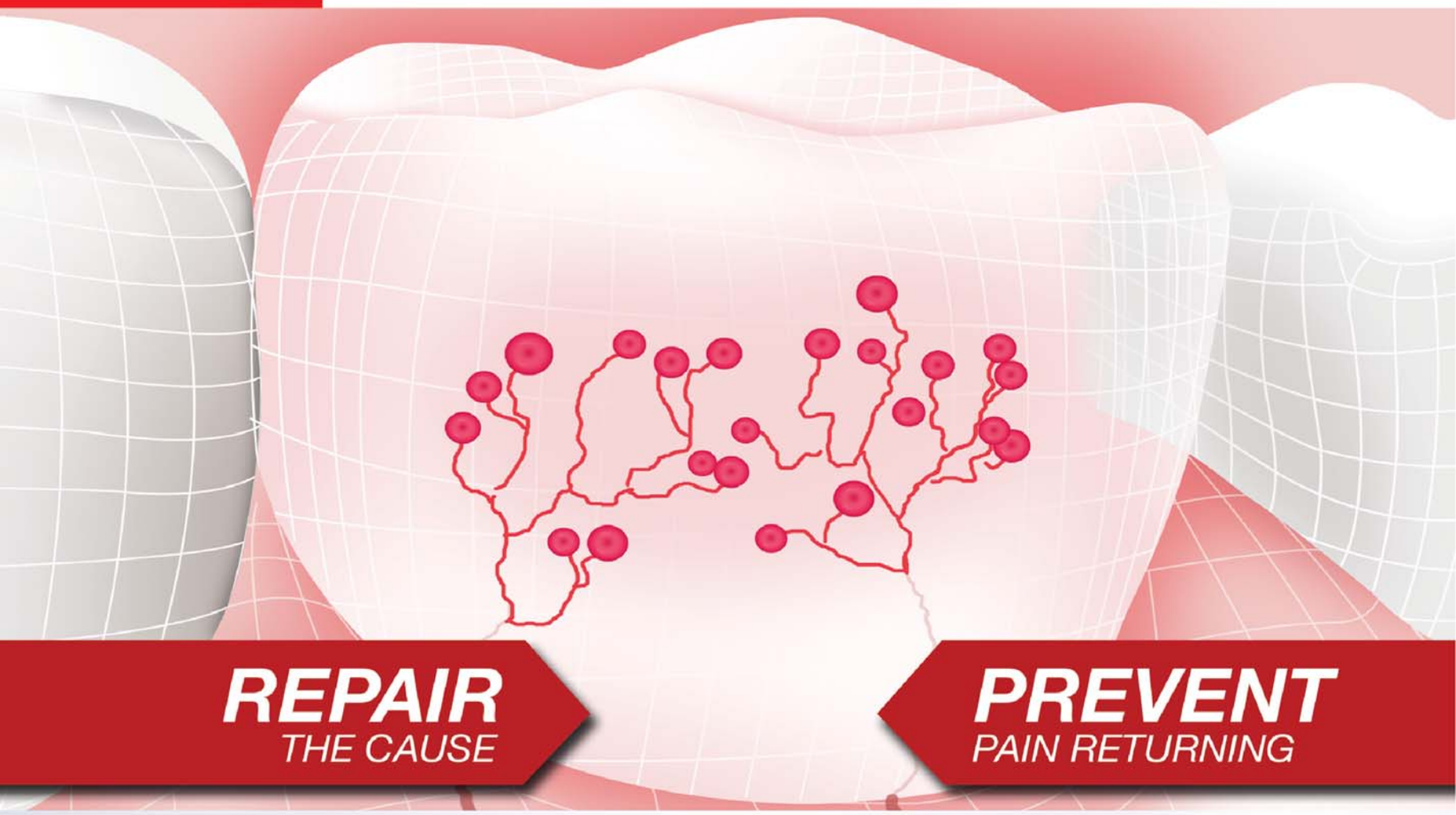
Material from Dental Tribune International GmbH that has been reprinted or translated and reprinted in this issue is copyrighted by Dental Tribune International GmbH. Such material must be published with the permission of Dental Tribune International GmbH. *Dental Tribune* is a trademark of Dental Tribune International GmbH.

All rights reserved. © 2021 Dental Tribune International GmbH. Reproduction in any manner in any language, in whole or in part, without the prior written permission of Dental Tribune International GmbH is expressly prohibited.

Dental Tribune International GmbH makes every effort to report clinical information and manufacturers' product news accurately but cannot assume responsibility for the validity of product claims or for typographical errors. The publisher also does not assume responsibility for product names, claims or statements made by advertisers. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and may not reflect those of Dental Tribune International GmbH.

Colgate

Colgate SENSITIVE PRO-Relief™



THERE'S A BETTER WAY TO TREAT SENSITIVE TEETH.¥

REPAIR

Forms a calcium-rich layer and helps repair† sensitive areas of teeth for instant and superior relief ¥,1-3

PREVENT

Regular use helps strengthen gums and provides lasting protection to prevent further tooth sensitivity

TREATING SENSITIVE TEETH: A SIDE BY SIDE COMPARISON

	COLGATE® SENSITIVE PRO-RELIEF™ TOOTHPASTE	ORDINARY SENSITIVITY TOOTHPASTES
TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM	**PRO-ARGIN™**	**POTASSIUM NITRATE**
Helps repair sensitive areas of teeth† arginine and calcium formulation	✓	
Clinically proven instant and superior sensitivity relief ¥,2-5	✓	
Acid-resistant occluding layer[6]	✓	
Relieves the pain of sensitive teeth†	✓	✓
Inhibits Plaque and Calculus Buildup	✓	

¥ With continued use. Also fights cavities.
† vs. toothpastes with 5% potassium nitrate. For instant relief, apply directly to the sensitive tooth and gently massage for 1 minute.

Reference: 1. Li Y et al. J Clin Dent. 2011; 22(Spec Iss):1-10. 2. Nathoo S et al. J Clin Dent. 2009; 20(Spec Iss):23-31. 3. Ayad F et al. J Clin Dent. 2009; 20(Spec Iss): 10-18. 4. Ayad F et al. J Clin Dent. 2009;20(Spec Iss):115-122. 5. Nathoo S et al. J Clin Dent. 2009;20(Spec Iss):123-130. 6. Lavender et al. Am J Dent. 2010; 23:5a-9a;44a-49a.

Quackery is the biggest issue of dental community in Pakistan; Prof. Nasir Ali Khan

by Dr Muattar Hanif

Prof. Nasir Ali Khan is secretary general, Pakistan Dental Association (PDA) head of the Department of Oral Biology.

After completing BDS from Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences, Jamshoro, Pakistan in 1992, Prof. Dr Nasir joined as house officer in Liaquat National Hospital. He later on performed his duties as resident medical officer (RMO) in LNH from 1994 to1997.

He formally started his career as demonstrator in 1997 at Karachi Medical and Dental College (KMDC). In 2002, Prof. Dr Nasir was promoted as assistant professor and later on was appointed as head of Department of Oral Biology in KMDC. Later, he served as associate professor and went on to become a full professor in 2007.

Prof. Nasir is currently serving as Incharge Dental OPD, Karachi Medical and Dental College (KMDC). He is also covener, Department of Oral Biology, University of Karachi.

Among many feathers in his cap, Prof. Nasir was also member of Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) in 2005. He was also vice president, PDA Sindh Zone from 2012 to 2016.

Dental Tribune Pakistan recently spoke to him about his contributions to the dental profession and his struggle for the betterment of the field in Pakistan.

Dental Tribune Pakistan: Prof. Nasir, what are the recent advancements in dental field and technology?

Prof. Nasir Ali Khan: We all know that necessity is the mother of all invention. Speaking of dental research, there is a huge shift towards evidence-based dentistry and clinical-based research. This leads to clinical implementations and so on. As far as technology is concerned, there are new advancements such as digital X-ray and CAD/CAM. Then there is a technology that can detect any issues pertaining to the oral cavity. In addition to that, invisible aligners are replacing conventional braces. There is a scope, that can detect oral diseases such as oral cancer by emitting special light. Furthermore, there are intraoral cameras and X-rays. The latest advancements in the dental X-rays consists of technologies that emit less radiation as compared to the conventional ones and are faster. Similarly, there are whitening options that give better results in a single sitting. Nitrous oxide is gaining popularity as an anesthetizing agent, as it allows patients to remain conscious and interact with the dentist. Moreover, there is a new diagnostic tool that can detect any dental caries in mouth.

> ***"There are issues everywhere, including the dental OPDs. These include problems with infrastructure and finance. I want the administrative department of KMDC to join hands to build a better system and infrastructure"***

These are some of the interesting advancements I have come across with.

You have recently been appointed as the in charge of OPD, any plans to improve it.

It has been a few days since I took charge of dental OPDs at KMDC. To be honest, there are issues everywhere including the dental OPDs. These include problems with infrastructure and finance. You will be surprised to hear that despite earning in millions, we do not have the authority to spend that money. There is of lack of dental materials, equipment, and dental units along with poor maintenance. I would like the administrative department of KMDC to join hands in my effort to build a better system and infrastructure. I am ready to cooperate in every way possible and hopefully things will go in the right direction. I would like to suggest an upgrade in the status of a dental OPD to a dental hospital, as it holds more than eight dental specialties.

> ***"The biggest issue that dentists face in basic dental sciences is the unavailability of supervisors for post-graduation programs. PMC and HEC need to play their part in this regard"***

Would you like to enlighten us about PDA, its core objectives and your achievements as its secretary general?

As you know, we joined as the office bearers at PDA in 2019 and most of our tenure was during the pandemic. We tried to deliver to the best of our abilities despite this challenge. 19 associations have been formed in various cities of Pakistan. We arranged for elections for the first time in Pakistan. Two national conferences and one virtual international dental conference were held in collaboration with Dental Tribune Pakistan. Achieving everything on merit is one of our goals. Two dental faculty members were sent from Pakistan, as foreign speakers to deliver lectures abroad. This could not be achieved earlier due to the presence of nepotism. There have been events pertaining to the World Oral Health Day, including walks and competitions. Concerns regarding the PMC ordinance have been raised on electronic platforms as well as the print media. We met with the honourable President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi and spoke to him about the issues. The meeting went on for an hour and we discussed the involvement of stake holders to compile the PMC regulations to avoid any problems. As secretary general of PDA, I am trying my best to guarantee effective running of association. It is a pity that PDA never had an audit since its inception in 1962. We are the first cabinet to organize a comprehensive audit for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Efforts are being made to streamline the registration process. The tentative date for APDC has been confirmed for 2023, after a 17-year gap. I would request Dr Arif Alvi to support us and declare it as national event.

> ***"We met with the honourable President of Pakistan, Dr Arif Alvi and spoke to him about the issues. The meeting went on for an hour, and we discussed the involvement of stakeholders to compile the PMC regulations to avoid any problems"***

What are the benefits of joining PDA for young graduates?

PDA being a national level association, provides fresh graduates with a platform to highlight their issues. They can voice their concerns regarding the newly introduced exit exam by the PMC. Secondly, they can participate as a PDA member and avail many opportunities in international conferences. We are also trying to introduce insurance policies and grants for them to open up clinics, research etc.

Continued on Page 11

SENSODYNE

CLINICALLY PROVEN RELIEF AND DAILY PROTECTION FOR SENSITIVE TEETH

Repair & Protect

The benefits of **NovaMin®** technology and **sodium fluoride** in a **single formulation**

With twice-daily brushing, it can:

- Create an even harder reparative† hydroxyapatite-like layer over the exposed dentine*[1-7]
- Continually protect your patients from dentine hypersensitivity**
  - Sensitivity relief can start from week 1[8], and is still making a difference to patients' lives after 6 months of daily use[9]

NO.1 DENTIST RECOMMENDED BRAND FOR SENSITIVE TEETH[10]

†Forms a protective layer over the sensitive area of the teeth. Brush twice a day for lasting sensitivity protection.*vs. Previously marketed formulation. **With twice-daily brushing.

References: 1. Greenspan DC et al. J Clin Dent 2010; 21: 61-65. **2.** La Torre G and Greenspan DC. J Clin Dent 2010; 21(3): 72-76. **3.** Earl JS et al. J Clin Dent 2011: 22(3); 62-67. **4.** Parkinson CR et al. J Clin Dent 2011; 22(3): 74-81. **5.** GSK Data on File, ML498. **6.** GSK Data on File, ML584. **7.** GSK Data on File, ML589. **8.** GSK Data on File, RH01422. **9.** GSK Data on File, RH01897. **10.** GSKCH PK IPSOS Study 2019, n = 250 qualified dentists. Date of preparation: February 2021 PM-PK-SENO-21-00003

Photos: DT Pakistan

IPAC Foundation holds training workshop for de' Montmorency College of Dentistry

LAHORE - The Department of Safe Dentistry, Infection Prevention Control Foundation (IPAC Foundation), recently conducted a training workshop on infection prevention and control in dental healthcare settings for the faculty at de' Montmorency College of Dentistry, Lahore.

The two-day workshop was attended by the faculty and post-graduate residents at de' Montmorency College of Dentistry, Lahore.

Associate Prof. Dr Muhammad Ilyas, Associate Professor, Department of Orthodontics, de' Montmorency College of Dentistry, shed light on the significance and the need for infection prevention and control in dental healthcare settings.

Dr Bukhtawar Azhar, Program Manager, Department of Safe Dentistry delivered the lecture and discussed cross-infection control protocols. Hands-on training sessions followed this to demonstrate the practical implementation of the guidelines and protocols in a specific dental setting.

CDE Hours by the University of Health Sciences (UHS) will be awarded to the participants to complete the training successfully. ***-PR***

Photos: DT Pakistan

HITEC-IMS welcomes new batch, organises orientation and white coat ceremony

TAXILA - HITEC Institute of Medical Sciences (HITEC-IMS), Dental College, recently welcomed the new batch of medical and dental students. Students and parents were invited to familiarize themselves with the institution and faculty. They were enlightened about the educational and assessment scheme, general code of conduct and college discipline, followed by a visit to basic and clinical departments.

The white coat ceremony was arranged by the administration HITEC-IMS for the third BDS and fifth MBBS batch in the HITEC auditorium. Chairman HIT Maj Gen Syed Aamer Raza, HI (M), was the guest of honour. The ceremony was attended by all the senior faculty members of Medical College and Dental College and dignitaries from HITEC University and HITEWT.

Prof Dr Asma Hafeez was the master of ceremony. The function started with the National anthem and recitation of the Quran with translation followed by Naat.

The oath was administered by the Vice Principal Brig. (R) Nasser Rasheed Dar, after which the students donned their white coats. The principal Dental College, Prof Dr Irfan shah and principal Medical College, Maj. Gen (R) Hamid Shafique delivered their welcome speeches to the students.

Chairman HIT, Maj Gen Syed Aamer Raza, HI (M), addressed the students and congratulated them on getting admission in HITEC-IMS. He highlighted the importance of their philanthropic profession and the implication it has on the communal social spheres. He advised the students to avail this opportunity and take full advantage of the quality education and learning provided. He wished them luck in their future endeavours. ***-PR***

APPOINTMENT

Prof. Syed Shah Faisal becomes new President of PAO

KARACHI - Prof Dr Syed Shah Faisal was recently elected as new the president of Pakistan Association of Orthodontists (PAO). He was appointed under the elected council for the year 2021 and 2022.

The new cabinet members also include Prof. Hasnain Sakrani, Vice President, PAO, Prof. Rozina Nazir, General Secretary, PAO and Dr Erum Behroz Khan, Finance Secretary, PAO. ***-PR***

Photo: DT Pakistan

GUJRANWALA - Newly elected cabinet members of PDA Gujranwala swear for the PDA Gujranwala Cabinet from 2021 to 2023. Following members are part of the new cabinet: Dr Shahid Aman Rathore, President, Dr Rizwan Asghar, Vice President, Dr Ayesha Imran, Lady Vice President, Dr Azhar Qayyoum Gondal, Finance Secretary, Dr Umar Ashfaq, Finance Secretary and Dr Sufyan Mursleen, Finance Secretary. ***-PR***

Photo: DT Pakistan

PESHAWAR - Orthodontic workshop was recently held at Bacha Khan College of Dentistry, Mardan. Dr Sadia Nisar, assistant professor, head of Department of Orthodontic arranged this workshop on mini implants in orthodontics. ***-PR***

Photos: DT Pakistan

SSCMS organises COVID-19 awards

KARACHI - Prof. Dr HR Sukhia, principal, Dental Section, Sir Syed College of Medical Sciences Karachi, recently awarded two senior dental faculty members for exemplary academic services rendered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Suraiya Hirani, Department of Oral Biology and Dr Navara Tanweer, Department of Dental Materials, were selected and awarded shields for their selfless

Continued on Page 11

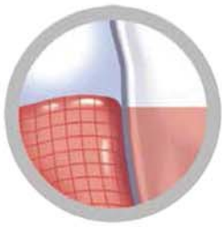
IT'S TIME TO RECOMMEND PARODONTAX TO YOUR PATIENTS

4 BENEFITS TO PROMOTE HEALTHY GUMS AND TEETH[1-7]

Treats and prevents gingivitis[1-6]

Removes plaque[1,3,7]

Reduces inflammation[1-5]



Keeps gingival margin tight[3]

NEW WITH HERBAL EXTRACTS FOR A CLEAN & FRESH SENSATION

4x MORE EFFECTIVE VS REGULAR TOOTHPASTE AT REMOVING THE MAIN CAUSE* OF BLEEDING GUMS

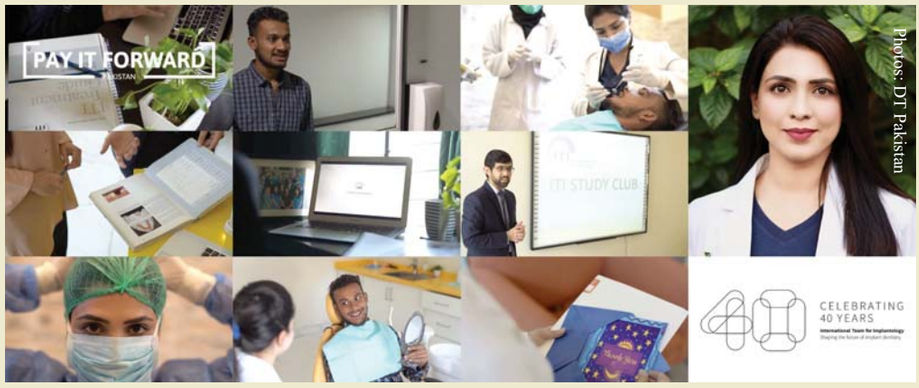
References:
1. Akwagyriam et al, 2015. **2.** Kakar et al, 2014 **3.** GSK data on file (GCCSS-GH-001 - parodontax complete protection toothpaste). **4.** Akwagyriam et al, 2013. **5.** Jose et al, 2018. **6.** Attin T and Hornecker E, 2005. **7.** Williams et al, 1992.

*removal of plaque, after a professional clean and twice daily brushing

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

UCD students win big at International Team for Implantology

LAHORE - Dr Myra Ahmed and Dr Muhammad Haseeb, assistant professor at the Department of Periodontics, University College of Dentistry, the University of Lahore, recently participated in the 40 years International Team for Implantology (ITI) celebration activities that took place in October 2020. ITI is a global association of professionals in implant dentistry.



Photos: DT Pakistan

The objectives of the ITI are the promotion and dissemination of knowledge about implant dentistry and related fields. One of the best parts of 40 years ITI celebration activities 2020 was the video competition. Great video contributions were received from all over the world, and the jury had the difficult task of selecting a winning video. The first prize, a ten-year ITI membership- went to Dr Myra Ahmed, and the second prize, a four-year ITI membership, was awarded to Dr Muhammad Haseeb. They both won over the jury with creative, captivating and emotional storylines and top-notch filming, direction and production.

Prof. Moghees A. Baig, dean and principal, University College of Dentistry, congratulated and appreciated the winners' efforts on such an achievement at the International platform. ***-PR***

Dr Shujah defends thesis, becomes Sindh's first MDS postgrad in prosthodontics

KARACHI - Dr Shujah Adil Khan, MDS, Department of Prosthodontics, Dr Ishrat Ul Ibad Khan Institute of Oral Health Sciences, Dow University of Health Sciences recently defended his thesis successfully. This enabled him to earn the credit for becoming Sindh's first postgraduate, Master of Dental Surgery (MDS) in Prosthodontics.

Talking to Dental News, Dr Shujah thanked his supervisor, Dr Syed Murtaza Raza Kazmi and his co-supervisor, Dr Shahbaz Ahmed for supporting him.

Dr Shujah completed his BDS from Fatima Jinnah Dental College, Karachi. He is also a member of the International Congress of Oral Implantologists and the Federation of Implant Dentistry Pakistan. He is currently practising as a consultant prosthodontist at Tahir Medical Centre. ***-PR***

Final year students deliver orthodontics presentation

KARACHI - An orthodontic case presentation by the Department of Orthodontics, Bahria University Medical and Dental College (BUMDC). The presentation was arranged for final year BDS under the supervision of Dr Omair Majeed.

Photos: DT Pakistan

Individual students were assigned cases that they had to prepare and present, highlighting the problem list and diagnosis. The students were supposed to analyze the cases using casts, radiographs, photographs and detailed histories to formulate the diagnosis, problem list and a specific treatment plan. This session was held by the students graded by Dr Saman, head of the Prosthodontics Department.

This activity enabled the students to approach orthodontic problems in a dynamic way allowing them to attain treatment-oriented learning skills. The competition urged students to put their best foot forward. Tooba Rauf delivered the best presentation, and the runner up winner was Anmol Zaman Satti. Dr Tabassum and Dr Saman awarded certificates. ***-PR***

BUMDC holds poster competition for dental students

KARACHI - The Department of Oral Biology organised a poster competition for the first year BDS students under the supervision, Dr Beenish Fatima Alam, Head of Department of Oral Biology, Bahria University Medical and Dental College (BUMDC).

The whole class was divided into ten groups. The posters were based on 'Tooth numbering systems' and 'Anatomical landmarks of the tooth' supervised by Dr Madiha Anwer, senior lecturer. The students actively and enthusiastically participated in the competition and tried to give their best. Dr Jaffer Abbas Zaidi, assistant professor, head of Department of Oral Biology, Dow Dental College, and Prof. Saman Hakeem, head of Department of Prosthodontics, BUMDC, were invited as judges for the event.

The competition commenced in the Oral Biology lab, where posters of each group were displayed, and all the participants tried their best

Continued on Page 10

Students showcase posters at competition, highlight COVID SOPs

KARACHI - The Department of Operative Dentistry, Bahria University Medical and Dental College (BUMDC) recently organized a poster competition among the final year students.

The theme of the competition was kept cross infection control in dentistry to not only educate the students on how they can better protect

Photo: DT Pakistan

themselves, their patients and the community at large from spreading infectious diseases but also serve as an opportunity for all the audience to brush up their knowledge regarding this crucial aspect of dentistry. Topics included 'sterilization and disinfection,' 'needle stick injury and its prevention', 'cross infection control in dentistry' and 'OPD protocols during COVID-19 pandemic'. Divided into four groups, they worked in teams to brainstorm research and organize their findings into esthetic yet comprehensive visual displays. This activity was aimed at developing literature review skills, designing posters and effective communication skills.

The poster presentation was judged by Dr Syed Jaffar Abbas Zaidi, assistant professor, Department

Continued on Page 11

Study finds SARS-CoV-2 vaccine hesitancy in 23% of healthcare workers

By Iveta Ramonaite
Dental Tribune International

LONDON, UK - As world leaders are continuing to roll out vaccination programmes and encouraging the public to get vaccinated, one thing is clear: there are still people who refuse or delay their vaccinations. Healthcare workers are a priority group since they run an elevated risk of infection. However, in a recent study, researchers found that vaccine hesitancy prevails in around a quarter of healthcare workers in the UK and that, compared with their white British colleagues, some ethnic minority groups show more resistance to getting vaccinated.

The UK Research study into Ethnicity And COVID-19 outcomes in Healthcare workers (UK-REACH) study is among the largest and most comprehensive vaccine hesitancy studies to date and was launched after mounting evidence showed that people from ethnic minority backgrounds had double the risk of severe COVID-19 disease compared with the risk for the white population. The research is funded by UK Research and Innovation and the National Institute for Health Research and supported by large national professional regulatory bodies.

In the study, the researchers analysed ethnic differences in SARS-CoV-2 vaccine hesitancy among 11,584 healthcare workers. They considered factors such as demographics, vaccine trust and perceived risk of COVID-19 and found that, despite the increased risk of infection, 23% of the participants reported vaccine hesitancy. Healthcare workers from Black Caribbean (54.2%), Mixed White and Black Caribbean (38.1%) and Black African (34.4%) ethnic groups were found to be significantly more hesitant than white British healthcare workers, of which group 21.3% were found to be hesitant.

In the largest vaccine hesitancy study outside the US and the only one to study UK healthcare workers, researchers have recently analysed the link between ethnicity and vaccine hesitancy and found that some ethnic minority groups are more likely to refuse or delay a vaccination than their white British colleagues. Image: Djavan Rodriguez/Shutterstock)

According to the data, independent predictors of hesitancy include younger age, female sex, a higher score on a COVID-19 conspiracy beliefs scale, lower trust in employer, lack of influenza vaccine uptake in the previous season, previous COVID-19 and pregnancy. After analysing qualitative data from 99 participants, the researchers also found that there was a lack of trust in government and employers among the participants. Additionally, the participants expressed safety concerns owing to rapid vaccine development, lack of ethnic diversity in vaccine studies, and confusing and conflicting information.

> ***"This research shows that most healthcare workers-including dental professionals-recognise that vaccines are safe and effective, but that a minority remain hesitant"***

In light of the findings, the researchers urged the government to develop strategies that would help build trust among ethnic minority groups and dispel myths surrounding the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine in the respective communities. They concluded that any communication regarding public health should be inclusive and that the government should promote vaccination through trusted websites.

Commenting on the results, General Dental Council (GDC) Executive Director of Strategy Stefan Czerniawski said in a press release: "We encourage all dental professionals to be vaccinated as an important step in protecting their patients, their communities and, of course, themselves."

"This research shows that most healthcare workers-including dental professionals-recognise that vaccines are safe and effective, but that a minority remain hesitant. It's important to understand the reasons for that so that concerns can be addressed, and take-up encouraged," he added.

Czerniawski commented that the GDC will continue to seek opportunities to promote a wide vaccination take-up and to show their support for the findings of the study. Additionally, the organisation has recently updated its vaccination guidance for dental professionals and employers and encourages dental professionals to read it.

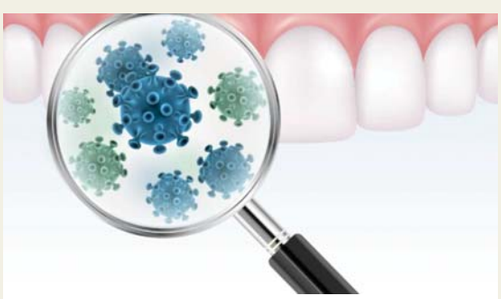
The study, titled "Ethnic differences in SARS-CoV-2 vaccine hesitancy in United Kingdom healthcare workers: Results from the UK-REACH prospective nationwide cohort study", was published online on 28 April 2021 on medRxiv.org.

SARS-CoV-2 might enter lungs through gingivae, experts say

By Dental Tribune International

LEIPZIG, GERMANY - As the COVID-19 pandemic has progressed, more and more has been discovered about the virus and disease. Previously, it was assumed that SARS-CoV-2 infected the lungs only via the upper airways. Now, another hypothesis has been formally published that suggests that the virus is transmitted via a vascular route from the oral cavity to the lungs.

The research team of scientists from Salisbury District Hospital and the University of Birmingham in the UK and the Mouth-Body Research Institute in Los Angeles in the US and Cape Town in South Africa has proposed that dental plaque accumulation and periodontal inflammation make it more likely that SARS-CoV-2 will reach the lungs from the mouth and cause more severe cases of infection.



It has been formally hypothesised that the coronavirus may infect the lungs via the bloodstream from the mouth and not solely via the airways. (Image: r.kathesi/Shutterstock)

Initial observations of lung CT scans of patients suffering from COVID-19 lung disease by consultant radiologist Dr Graham Lloyd-Jones, who is lead author of the hypothesis, led to a collaboration between medical and dental researchers on the potential entry route into the bloodstream.

The team's model proposes that the mouth provides a reservoir for the virus to thrive in the saliva and any breach in oral immune defences makes it easier for the virus to enter the bloodstream. Moving from blood vessels in the gingiva, the virus is hypothesised to pass through the neck and chest veins to the heart before being pumped into the pulmonary arteries and small vessels in the lung base and periphery.

Co-author Dr Iain Chapple, professor of periodontics at the University of Birmingham, commented: "This model may help us understand why some individuals develop COVID-19 lung disease and others do not. It could also change the way we manage the virus-exploring cheap or even free treatments targeted at the mouth and, ultimately, saving lives."

Continued on Page 10