

**Aga Khan University- FHS-PhD Programme**  
**List of funded projects for potential PhD Candidates**

Population and Public Health Stream						
Sr. No.	Name, Email address and Department of Primary Supervisor	Supervisory Team	Title of Project/ Source of funding	Research Funding available	Funds available until	Key Objectives of research project
1	Dr Junaid Razzak <a href="mailto:junaid.razzak@aku.edu">junaid.razzak@aku.edu</a> Professor & Director, CoE Trauma & Emergencies	Drs Nadeemullah Khan and Huba Atiq	Development of Pakistan Trauma Registry: Multihospital Digital Trauma Registry	USD 40,000	2026	<p>The objective is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and pilot test Pakistan Trauma Registry using the Collector trauma registry as guideline to capture variables and trauma outcomes relevant in Pakistani context and include patient-reported disability outcomes (PROs) at one, three, six- and twelve-months post-injury.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent</b>						
2	Dr Junaid Razzak <a href="mailto:junaid.razzak@aku.edu">junaid.razzak@aku.edu</a> Professor & Director, CoE Trauma & Emergencies	Drs Nadeemullah Khan and Huba Atiq	EMS data-based research network for generating evidence-based studies for implementing best practices for patients requiring emergency medical care.	USD 40,000	2026	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To establish a comprehensive EMS registry database as a baseline data hub for the implementation of evidence-based guidelines (EBGs) in Pakistan, which will play a critical role in improving patient care and outcomes.</li> <li>To develop a robust EMS data-based research network to generate evidence-based studies for implementing best practices for patients requiring prehospital emergency care, thereby improving the quality of emergency medical services in the country.</li> <li>To focus on achieving the target SDGs of the decade by creating a national EMS registry and developing policies for its implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent</b>						

3	Dr Junaid Razzak <a href="mailto:junaid.razzak@aku.edu">junaid.razzak@aku.edu</a> Professor & Director, CoE Trauma & Emergencies	Drs Nadeemullah Khan and Huba Atiq	AKU Integrated Response to Disaster Preparedness & Response	USD 40,000	2026	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities among lady health care workers (LHCWs) in Sindh, Pakistan.</li> <li>To develop healthcare delivery for internally displaced populations during disasters.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent</b>						
4	Dr Junaid Razzak <a href="mailto:junaid.razzak@aku.edu">junaid.razzak@aku.edu</a> Professor & Director, CoE Trauma & Emergencies	Drs Nadeemullah Khan and Huba Atiq	NIHR Global Health Group on Equitable Access to Quality Health Care for Injured People in Four Low- or Middle-Income Countries: Equi-injury	USD 40,000	2026	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a common understanding of stakeholder desires and needs to improve policy to enable improved equitable access to quality injury care.</li> <li>To identify barriers and facilitators to equitable access to quality care and their consequences for the injured person.</li> <li>To ascertain which outcomes (for example, clinical outcomes, or respectful, safe, free, or inexpensive care) are priorities for stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent</b>						
5	Dr Junaid Razzak <a href="mailto:junaid.razzak@aku.edu">junaid.razzak@aku.edu</a> Professor & Director, CoE Trauma & Emergencies	Drs Nadeemullah Khan and Huba Atiq	Feasibility & Efficacy of Ambulance Based mHealth for Paediatric Emergencies (FEAMER)	USD 40,000	2026	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To measure the acceptability of Ambulance-Based Teleconsultation for the emergency care of acutely ill children.</li> <li>To determine the feasibility of carrying out a pilot cluster-randomized trial on the impact of Ambulance-Based Teleconsultation on the Pediatric Early Warning Score (PEWS).</li> <li>To develop the capacity of local partners in m-health research capacity and prepare for an efficacy trial.</li> <li>To test the efficacy of Ambulance-Based Teleconsultation by measuring a change in the PEWS of acutely ill children from the scene of injury/illness to the pediatric emergency department (PED) through a cluster-randomized trial.</li> <li>To establish a Technology in Emergency Care (TEC) research group at AKU and prepare for a large multi-site effectiveness trial.</li> </ul>
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6	<p>Dr Muhammad Asim  <a href="mailto:asim.muhammad@aku.edu">asim.muhammad@aku.edu</a>  Assistant Professor,  Dept. Of Community Health Sciences</p>	<p>Drs Sarah Saleem, Rozina Karmaliani and Batool Fatima</p>	<p>The Global Network Maternal Newborn Health Registry</p>	<p>PKR  2.5 million</p>	<p>2027</p>	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To quantify and understand the trends in pregnancy services and outcomes over time in defined, low-resource geographic clusters.</li> <li>• To provide population-based statistics on stillbirths, and neonatal and maternal mortality as the basis of health care policy.</li> <li>• To provide the mortality and morbidity outcomes for Global Network trials and help investigators plan future studies for the Global Network.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): Experience with health systems preferred. Healthcare providers such as nurses and medical doctors or pharmacists and physiotherapists as well as public health practitioners are welcome to apply.</b></p>						
7	<p>Dr Muhammad Asim  <a href="mailto:asim.muhammad@aku.edu">asim.muhammad@aku.edu</a>  Assistant Professor,  Dept. Of Community Health Sciences</p>	<p>Drs Zahid Memon, Zohra Lassi, Rozina Karmaliani</p>	<p>Engaging Adolescents for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Family Planning Advocacy in Pakistan</p>	<p>USD  655,000</p>	<p>2027</p>	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To conduct a systematic review to assess the existing evidence, gaps, and areas of improvement on adolescent sexual reproductive health and family planning rights in Pakistan.</li> <li>• To co-create an evidence-based advocacy toolkit for adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and family planning rights to improve the reproductive health of adolescents in rural Pakistan.</li> <li>• To implement and assess the effectiveness of the toolkit on adolescent sexual reproductive health and family planning rights in Pakistan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): Experience with health systems preferred. Healthcare providers such as nurses and medical doctors or pharmacists and physiotherapists as well as public health practitioners are welcome to apply.</b></p>						
8	<p>Dr Sameen Siddiqi  <a href="mailto:sameen.siddiqi@aku.edu">sameen.siddiqi@aku.edu</a>  Professor,  Dep. Of Community Health Sciences</p>	<p>Drs Zahid Memon, Rozina Karmaliani and Jai Das</p>	<p>Strengthening Primary Healthcare: A Collaborative Learning Approach for Enhanced Readiness in Pakistan</p>	<p>USD  1.1 Million</p>	<p>2026</p>	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the current state of primary health care in Pakistan by thorough assessment of the existing primary health care infrastructure, resources, and service delivery mechanisms in Pakistan.</li> <li>• Evaluate the accessibility, quality, and effectiveness of PHC services at the national and provincial levels.</li> <li>• Identify key stakeholders and gauge the underlying supportive factors and bottlenecks to embed PHC readiness mechanisms coherently within health systems.</li> <li>• Develop an Innovative Framework for Strengthening Primary Health Care Propose an innovative and evidence-based framework for strengthening primary health care services.</li> <li>• Evaluate the economic feasibility of scaling up the proposed framework to a national level.</li> </ul>

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the potential for sustainability, considering financial, human resource, and infrastructural factors.</li> </ul>
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9	Dr Zafar Fatmi <a href="mailto:zafar.fatmi@aku.edu">zafar.fatmi@aku.edu</a> Professor, Dep. Of Community Health Sciences	Drs Asaad Nafees and Paul Cullinan	Sindh Occupational Diseases and Injuries Surveillance System (SODISS)	USD 15,000	2024 <i>(Further  funding is  expected to be  available in  2025)</i>	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conduct a situational analysis of the existing system of occupational disease and injuries recording mechanism at SESSI health facilities.</li> <li>To establish and pilot-test the Sindh occupational diseases and injuries surveillance system (SODISS) at selected SESSI health facilities.</li> <li>Report burden and trends of occupational injuries and diseases occurring in Sindh province using SODISS.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent. Prior experience in occupational health will be helpful</b>						
10	Dr Rozina Karmaliani <a href="mailto:rozina.karmaliani@aku.edu">rozina.karmaliani@aku.edu</a> Professor, SONAM	Dr Rubina Barolia and Ms Falak Madhani	Testing Primary Care and Home- Based Service Delivery Models to Care for the Elderly	USD 5,000	2026	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the aging population in urban and rural settings in Karachi and Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral.</li> <li>To test service delivery models for the elderly which can improve access to care at home and in the community and improve health outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): Experience with health systems preferred. Healthcare providers such as nurses and medical doctors or pharmacists and physiotherapists as well as public health practitioners are welcome to apply.</b>						