



# Allied Health Conference Report 2023

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1st Allied Health Conference  
Transforming Healthcare Together:  
Allied Health Perspectives



آغا خان یونیورسٹی  
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

# Conference Overview

Office of Allied Health organized its first conference on October 12-14, 2023 on the theme "Transforming Healthcare Together: Allied Health Perspectives." The first two days were dedicated to pre-conference workshops, offering participants valuable hands-on experiences and skill-building opportunities. The main event, held on October 14, 2023, featured a dynamic program. Six academic Deans from Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, and Swat attended the conference. Talks, interactive sessions, scientific posters, and panel discussions were organized, providing a comprehensive and engaging experience for all attendees. This inaugural conference successfully fostered a deeper understanding of interconnected patient care and the significant contributions of allied health professionals to safe health care provision.



# Short Walk to celebrate International Day for Allied Health Professionals

On October 10, 2023, a short walk was arranged to celebrate the International Day of the Allied Health Professionals. Health care providers and allied health professionals from different departments at Aga Khan University Hospital Karachi came together to advocate for allied health with banners, using hashtag #TogetherForHealthcare





# Pre-Conference Workshops

Altogether, eight pre-conference workshops were conducted on October 12 –13, facilitated by faculty and AHPs from within and outside AKU. The aim of these workshops was to focus on various topics relevant to allied health professionals. 150+ participants attended the workshops. Workshop titles are listed below. (please list all workshops)

- i. Enhanced Organizational Effectiveness via NLP
- ii. Analyzing Health Equity in Allied Health Research
- iii. Mastering BOPPPS: A workshop for technologists in developing effective lesson plans
- iv. Interprofessional Education
- v. Basic Quality Improvement Tools for QI projects
- vi. Beginners Guide to Professional Use of Social Media Platform: Let's Have a Tweetup
- vii. Planning Total Parenteral Nutrition – An Individualized Approach
- viii. Safe and Effective Use of Equipment in Radiology





# Main Conference Program

## 1 Welcome Remarks by Associate Dean Allied Health, AKU

Dr. Robyna Irshad Khan, inaugural Associate Dean for Allied Health, in her opening remarks, articulated the primary objectives behind organizing this conference. She emphasized its role in advocating for allied health professionals, providing a platform to champion their vital contributions. Dr. Khan highlighted the significance of the event in fostering networking opportunities among professionals across healthcare sectors and promoting academic and career advancements within the allied health field.





**Welcome Note & Special Remarks**

Saturday, October 14, 2023, | 09:00 – 09:15 |  
AKU Auditorium



**Welcome Note**  
**Dr Robyna Irshad Khan**  
Associate Dean Allied Health  
Aga Khan University



**Special Remarks**  
**Dr Adil Haider**  
Dean, Medical College  
Aga Khan University



## 2 Welcome Remarks by Dean, Medical College, AKU

Dr. Adil Haider, Dean Medical College, AKU in his opening remarks underscored the profound significance and central role of allied health professionals within the healthcare landscape. Dr. Haider passionately emphasized the pivotal contribution these professionals make to patient-centered care and advocated for their well-deserved recognition on diverse platforms.





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**Dr Robyna Irshad Khan**  
Associate Dean Allied Health  
Aga Khan University



**Special Remarks**  
**Dr Adil Haider**  
Dean, Medical College  
Aga Khan University



## 3 Special Remarks by the Vice Provost

During the conference, AKU's regional Vice Provost Dr. Anjum Halai, articulated her perspective on the imperative of collaborative endeavors in scaling allied health programs. Dr. Halai emphasized that at AKU, the commitment to expanding the reach of allied health programs extends beyond traditional boundaries, as the institution leverages online platforms to extend





**Opening Remarks**

October 14, 2023, | 09:15 – 09:30 |  
AKU Auditorium



**Dr. Anjum Halai**  
**Professor, Vice-Provost Asia and UK and Founding Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences**  
Aga Khan University


Dr Halai has a long-standing and international experience in higher education in low-income and middle-income countries like Pakistan and those in East Africa. She obtained her doctoral degree from Oxford University UK. Professor Halai has substantial experience of teaching at graduate and postgraduate levels and a strong track record of research and publications.






## 4 Guest of Honor Speech

The distinguished Guest of Honor, a renowned life coach and global public speaker Mr. Azam Jamil, shed light on the pivotal but often unsung role played by allied health professionals within the healthcare arena.



**Guest of Honor**

Saturday, October 14, 2023, | 09:35 – 10:00 |  
AKU Auditorium



**Mr. Azam Jamil**  
**Life Coach/Global Public Speaker**

Country Head for Siddiqi Hospitality Pvt Ltd. Board of Governors of NAMAL University and the Hashoo School of Hospitality Management. Former Minister of State, Special Assistant to the Prime Minister for Tourism Coordination, Government of Pakistan, and Chairman of the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation.



## 5 Panel 1 & 2: Research, Clinical Services, and Patient Care in Allied Health, Charting the Future: Solutions for Enhanced Allied Health Education

Panel one comprising experts in the field, delved into the pivotal role of Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) in scaling health services. Their discussion highlighted key strategies, including engaging in clinical research to establish a robust evidence base for their practice. The second panel, featuring deans from various institutions dedicated to educational advancements, set the stage for future directions in the field of Allied Health.



**Panel 1: Research, Clinical Services, and Patient Care in Allied Health**

October 14, 2023 | 11:00 – 11:45 | Auditorium AKU



**Panel Chair**  
**Dr. Muhammad Naveed Babur**  
Dean & Faculty of Allied Health Sciences  
Superior University, Islamabad



**Panel Moderator**  
**Dr. Saima Gullar**  
Associate Professor  
School of Nursing, AKU



**Dr. Mansoor Shab**  
Chief Operating Officer COO  
Aga Khan University Hospital



**Ms. Amna Lakhani**  
Division of Nursing Services  
Aga Khan University Hospital



**Dr. Tareen Ali**  
Professor and Interim Dean  
School of Nursing  
Aga Khan University



**Dr. Huma Nuz**  
Director Outpatient Services  
Aga Khan University Hospital



**Ms. Laila Khattak**  
Director, Manager Office - CMS  
Aga Khan University Hospitals





**Panel 2: Educational Advancements for Allied Health Professionals**

October 14, 2023 | 03:15 – 04:15 |  
Auditorium AKU



**Panel Moderator**  
**Dr. Saima Gullar**  
Assoc. Director Office of Allied Health  
Aga Khan University



**Panel Chair**  
**Prof. Dr. Ashfaq Ahmed**  
Dean, Faculty of Allied Health Sciences  
University of Lahore



**Dr. Samaira Farooqi**  
Professor & Principal  
College of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Ziauddin University



**Dr. Tausif Rajput**  
Dean & Professor  
Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University  
Islamabad



**Dr. Rohana Irshad Khan**  
Associate Dean  
Office of Allied Health  
Aga Khan University



**Dr. Tayyab Rehman**  
Dean & Professor  
Allied Health Sciences  
Iqbal National University



## 6 Oral Presentations

The conference featured six oral presentations, the best graded featured a nutritionist's innovative oat and black seed cookie as an option to reduce blood cholesterol levels. Another presentation highlighted the advancement of pharmacy education in academic medical centers, emphasizing quality assurance measures. A dental hygienist discussed the detrimental effects of smoking on periodontal health, underlining the significance of smoking cessation.



## 7 Expert Talk: Educational Advancements in Allied Health

The conference featured enlightening talks by experts in the field, including Dr. Syed Amir Gillani, who discussed the critical topic of accreditation for Allied Health Professionals, underlining the importance of standardized recognition. Dr. Shakeel Ahmed Khan's talk on "Global Skills for Allied Health" emphasized the need for professionals to allocate resources for their ongoing development and acquire global skills.

**Expert Talks**

October 14, 2023 | 02:00 - 03:00 | Auditorium AKU

**Topic**  
Accreditation in Allied Health

**Dr Syed Amir Gillani**  
Rector, Faculty of Allied Health Science  
Ibadat International University

**Topic**  
Global Skills for Educational Advancements for Allied Health Professionals

**Dr Shakeel Ahmed**  
Voice and Image Consultant  
The Society of Image Management Pakistan

**Comments**  
**Dr Tabassum Zehra**  
Assistant Professor  
Department for Educational Development  
Aga Khan University



## 8 Promoting Allied Health through Educational Stalls

The conference organized a display of educational stalls to promote allied health fields and their role in health care. Five different departments, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, Dental hygiene, Anesthesia and nutrition displayed their stalls educating audiences and guests about their role through games, colorful posters, and models.





## 9 Promoting research through abstract presentations

More than 60 abstracts were submitted for the e-poster presentation category. A total of 40 posters were finalized for display under four themes. The poster themes were as follows:

1. Interdisciplinary and education
2. Research and innovation,
3. Technology and digital Solution
4. Workforce and patient care

The abstracts were evaluated by the group of judges on the conference day and four posters were selected as winners.

