



آغا خان یونیورسٹی  
THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY

# 2015 DONOR IMPACT REPORT

## PAEDIATRIC PATIENT WELFARE



Every year we see a growing number of children suffering from a variety of illnesses. This year, we treated a record number of 2408 patients. We were greatly assisted in our mission by your generous support of PKR 189 million (US\$ 1.88 million) and we thank you from our hearts.

In this report, we introduce you to one of the patients you helped us treat - our friend and yours.



When he was just a four-year-old baby, Saad Shaikh received a shattering diagnosis: Thalassemia. This is a genetic life-threatening blood disorder. Thalassemia is a demanding illness - it wears the sufferer both physically and emotionally. Frequent infections, loss of appetite and jaundice accompany it, inevitably. Saad had to rely on the goodwill of the Afzaal Memorial Thalassemia Foundation in order to meet the costs of therapy. However, reaching his fourteenth birthday, Saad began experiencing shortness of breath, heart palpitations and increasing fatigue. His devastated father, Ubaidullah, rushed him to the Afzaal Foundation for a checkup, who referred him to Dr Babar Hasan, a paediatric cardiologist at the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, AKUH. While examining him, Dr Babar conducted ECHO tests on Saad, realising that in addition to thalassemia, the ailing child was also enduring atrial septal defect, (ASD), a congenital heart disease. This is a defect that occurs whilst the child is still in the womb. However, its symptoms only become apparent after birth, often decades later. Saad needed immediate corrective surgery. Dr Babar arranged for the patient to be transferred to the AKUH for the operation. One final ECHO test was undertaken to ensure thorough preparation for the 2.5 hour procedure, which was successfully performed a day after Saad's transfer.

The Patient Welfare Programme covered the cost of treatment. As a result of the support provided by AKUH, Saad is able to lead a healthier, happier life.

**Contact us if you want to help our cause:  
resource.development@aku.edu  
Visit our website: [www.aku.edu/supportus](http://www.aku.edu/supportus)**