

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 junaid.razzak@aku.edu 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"> 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.
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent						
2	Dr Junaid Razzak junaid.razzak@aku.edu 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"> 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. 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. To focus on achieving the target SDGs of the decade by creating a national EMS registry and developing policies for its implementation.
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent						

3	Dr Junaid Razzak junaid.razzak@aku.edu 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"> To enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities among lady health care workers (LHCWs) in Sindh, Pakistan. To develop healthcare delivery for internally displaced populations during disasters.
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4	Dr Junaid Razzak junaid.razzak@aku.edu 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"> To develop a common understanding of stakeholder desires and needs to improve policy to enable improved equitable access to quality injury care. To identify barriers and facilitators to equitable access to quality care and their consequences for the injured person. To ascertain which outcomes (for example, clinical outcomes, or respectful, safe, free, or inexpensive care) are priorities for stakeholders.
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent						
5	Dr Junaid Razzak junaid.razzak@aku.edu 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"> To measure the acceptability of Ambulance-Based Teleconsultation for the emergency care of acutely ill children. 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). To develop the capacity of local partners in m-health research capacity and prepare for an efficacy trial. 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. To establish a Technology in Emergency Care (TEC) research group at AKU and prepare for a large multi-site effectiveness trial.
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent						

6	Dr Muhammad Asim asim.muhammad@aku.edu Assistant Professor, Dept. Of Community Health Sciences	Drs Sarah Saleem, Rozina Karmaliani and Batool Fatima	The Global Network Maternal Newborn Health Registry	PKR 2.5 million	2027	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To quantify and understand the trends in pregnancy services and outcomes over time in defined, low-resource geographic clusters. To provide population-based statistics on stillbirths, and neonatal and maternal mortality as the basis of health care policy. To provide the mortality and morbidity outcomes for Global Network trials and help investigators plan future studies for the Global Network.
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.						
7	Dr Muhammad Asim asim.muhammad@aku.edu Assistant Professor, Dept. Of Community Health Sciences	Drs Zahid Memon, Zohra Lassi, Rozina Karmaliani	Engaging Adolescents for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Family Planning Advocacy in Pakistan	USD 655,000	2027	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct a systematic review to access the existing evidence, gaps, and areas of improvement on adolescent sexual reproductive health and family planning rights in Pakistan. 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. To implement and assess the effectiveness of the toolkit on adolescent sexual reproductive health and family planning rights in Pakistan.
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.						
8	Dr Rozina Karmaliani rozina.karmaliani@aku.edu Professor, SONAM	Drs Sameen Siddiqi, Zahid Memon, Rozina Karmaliani and Jai Das	Strengthening Primary Healthcare: A Collaborative Learning Approach for Enhanced Readiness in Pakistan	USD 1.1 Million	2026	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Evaluate the accessibility, quality, and effectiveness of PHC services at the national and provincial levels. Identify key stakeholders and gauge the underlying supportive factors and bottlenecks to embed PHC readiness mechanisms coherently within health systems. Develop an Innovative Framework for Strengthening Primary Health Care Propose an innovative and evidence-based framework for strengthening primary health care services. Evaluate the economic feasibility of scaling up the proposed framework to a national level.

						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the potential for sustainability, considering financial, human resource, and infrastructural factors.
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9	Dr Zafar Fatmi zafar.fatmi@aku.edu 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>	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conduct a situational analysis of the existing system of occupational disease and injuries recording mechanism at SESSI health facilities. To establish and pilot-test the Sindh occupational diseases and injuries surveillance system (SODISS) at selected SESSI health facilities. Report burden and trends of occupational injuries and diseases occurring in Sindh province using SODISS.
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						
10	Dr Rozina Karmaliani rozina.karmaliani@aku.edu 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	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the aging population in urban and rural settings in Karachi and Gilgit-Baltistan and Chitral. To test service delivery models for the elderly which can improve access to care at home and in the community and improve health outcomes.
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.						
11	Dr Romaina Iqbal romaina.iqbal@aku.edu Associate Professor & Sec Head, Dep. Of Community Health Sciences	Dr Asad Ali and Mr Azam Iqbal	Dual Burden of Malnutrition in mothers and their children residing in rural Sindh	USD 50,000	2027	<p>The key objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To estimate the burden and elucidate the risk factors associated with dual burden of malnutrition in mother and child pairs residing in Matiari, Sindh To co-create an educational intervention for addressing the dual burden of malnutrition in mother-child pairs in Matiari, Sindh To test the effectiveness of the co-created educational intervention in Matiari, Sindh
Pre-requisites of PhD candidate applicants (graduate qualification requirement):): MPhil/ MS, Master's in Health Science/Public Health, MSc Epi-Bio, HPM or equivalent						

12	Dr Nuruddin Mohammed nuruddin.mohammed@aku.edu Associate Professor. Dep. Of OB/GYN	Drs Rozina Nuruddin, Nida Sadaf Khan and Rumi Chunara	Addressing women's health across the life span through a contextualized machine learning model and risk calculator for early prediction of gestational diabetes mellitus	USD 10,000	2024 (Applied for additional Funding)	The key objectives are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a precise model for early prediction of gestational diabetes mellitus by integrating clinical practice, epidemiology, and machine learning and by using location-specific routinely available data on socio-demographic and biological factors. To apply the predictive model for GDM on a prospective dataset for model validation and development of a risk calculator.
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13	Dr Zulfiqar Bhutta zulfiqar.bhutta@aku.edu Professor and Founding Director, Institute for Global Health and Development	Drs Sajid Soofi and Junaid Iqbal	Adapting School-based Asthma Programme: A multicountry (AdAPT) study	USD 20,000	2026	The key objectives are: <p>Primary Objective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project aims to adapt a school-based asthma programme and test the feasibility of the intervention in four countries (Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia). <p>Secondary Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To explore the local context and views of local stakeholders to inform the adaptation of a school-based asthma intervention. 2) To undertake adaptation of the school-based asthma intervention aimed to support the care of children with asthma.
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