



DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

*Happy
New
Year*

Message from the Chair

It's a time for new beginnings - the start of a new year, a new decade and many exciting initiatives and offerings from BBS, not the least of which is a revamped quarterly newsletter. I am pleased to invite you to scroll down to read a sampling of BBS faculty, staff and our students' activities and accomplishments in the last few months of 2019. We look forward to sharing regular updates of our research and educational activities with the AKU community through this newsletter. 2020

promises to be an exciting year with the start of the MPhil program in Biological Sciences - the first cohort will join on January 1 (which coincidentally was the day that I joined AKU more than a decade ago!). Strengthening the graduate and post-graduate experience in the department remains central to achieving the research mission of BBS and going forward, we hope to focus on capacity and infrastructure development. We look forward to partnering with others in the Medical College and beyond in this endeavor. May 2020 bring success and wellness to all. Wishing you a very happy new year on behalf of all of us in BBS.

Dr Kusloom Ghias

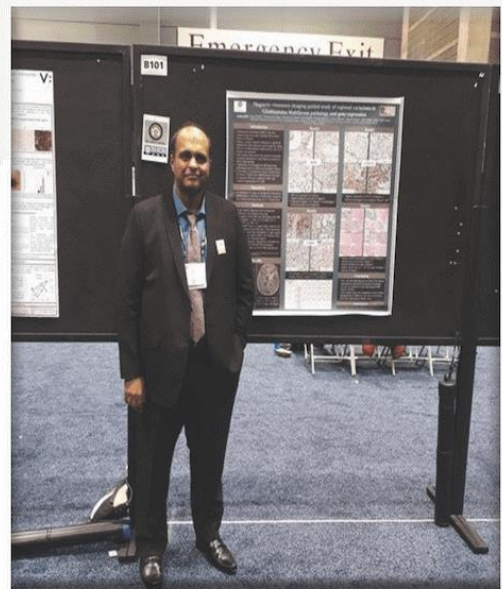


FROM THE FACULTY HUB



Dr Sadia Fatima presented a paper on Epigenetic Programming in Gestational Diabetes @ DOHaD Conference, Australia

Dr Fazal Arain presented a poster on Regional Variations and Gene Expression in Glioblastoma Multiforme @ Society of Neuroscience Conference, USA



Dr Salman Siddiqi presented a poster on Blood Pressure Lowering Activities of *Pimpinella anisum* @ Oman Conference, Oman

FROM THE FACULTY HUB



Dr Rehana Rehman gave an invited talk on Research Initiatives to Promote Research Culture @University of Karachi

Dr Satwat Hashmi presented a paper on Cardiac Regeneration @International Biennial Conference of Cardiothoracic Surgery



Dr Fareena Bilwani presented an e-poster on Artificial urine: New tool in Teaching Renal Physiology in UGME @ 3rd Biennial SOTL Conference

Dr Sadia Fatima presented a paper on Video Enhanced PBL @ 3rd Biennial SOTL Conference



STUDENT CHRONICLES

2nd Best Paper Award



Fatima Guahar and Mariya Khan (3rd year UGME students) presented a paper on Factors Affecting Matching into a Residency Program in US @3rd Biennial SOTL Conference Faculty Mentor-Dr Sadia Fatima

2nd Best Paper Award

Bilal Mirza (UGME student) presented a paper on Simulation based Technologies in Clinical Skills @3rd Biennial SOTL Conference Faculty Mentor-Dr Satwat Hashmi

STAFF NARRATIVES



BBS lab staff attended a workshop on Genomics Application of PCR, qPCR and NGS

Redesigning of UGME Laboratory Session



A length tension relationship flipped laboratory session for MSK module was redesigned by Dr Sadia and Ms Sabah. Previously conducted using isolated animal tissue, creating an understanding for such a complex concept was difficult. Hence, a simple experiment was designed where students would use different weight dumbbells to perform a variety of scenarios. A video of the concept and experiment was recorded and shared with the students. The experiment was then performed, analyzed and presented in groups. The powerlab software generated real time plot for easy understanding. Mentimetre and Kahoot were used to test relevant applied anatomy concepts. This new session was highly appreciated by the students who reported appreciating the application of learned knowledge to daily life situations such as lifting a grocery bag or doing push ups.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



**Dr Perwaiz Iqbal was conferred Professor Emeritus and
Dr Amirali Gulamhusein with Award of Distinction
@Convocation 2019**



**Dr Rehana Rehman received Fellowship and
Dr Kulsoom Ghias recognized for Senior Fellowship
from the Higher Education Academy, UK**

Outstanding Teachers Award

**Dr Zehra Jamil
(Student Nominated)
Dr Syed Hani Abidi
(Merit Award)
@Awards Night 2019**



NEW ARRIVALS



A warm welcome to the aspiring students
@Class of 2024



New Teaching Assistants @ your service
Dr Fatima Mustansir, Dr Syed Mujtaba Baqir,
Dr Amna Saeed and Dr Ahmed Zafar Cheema

REFLECTIONS 2019

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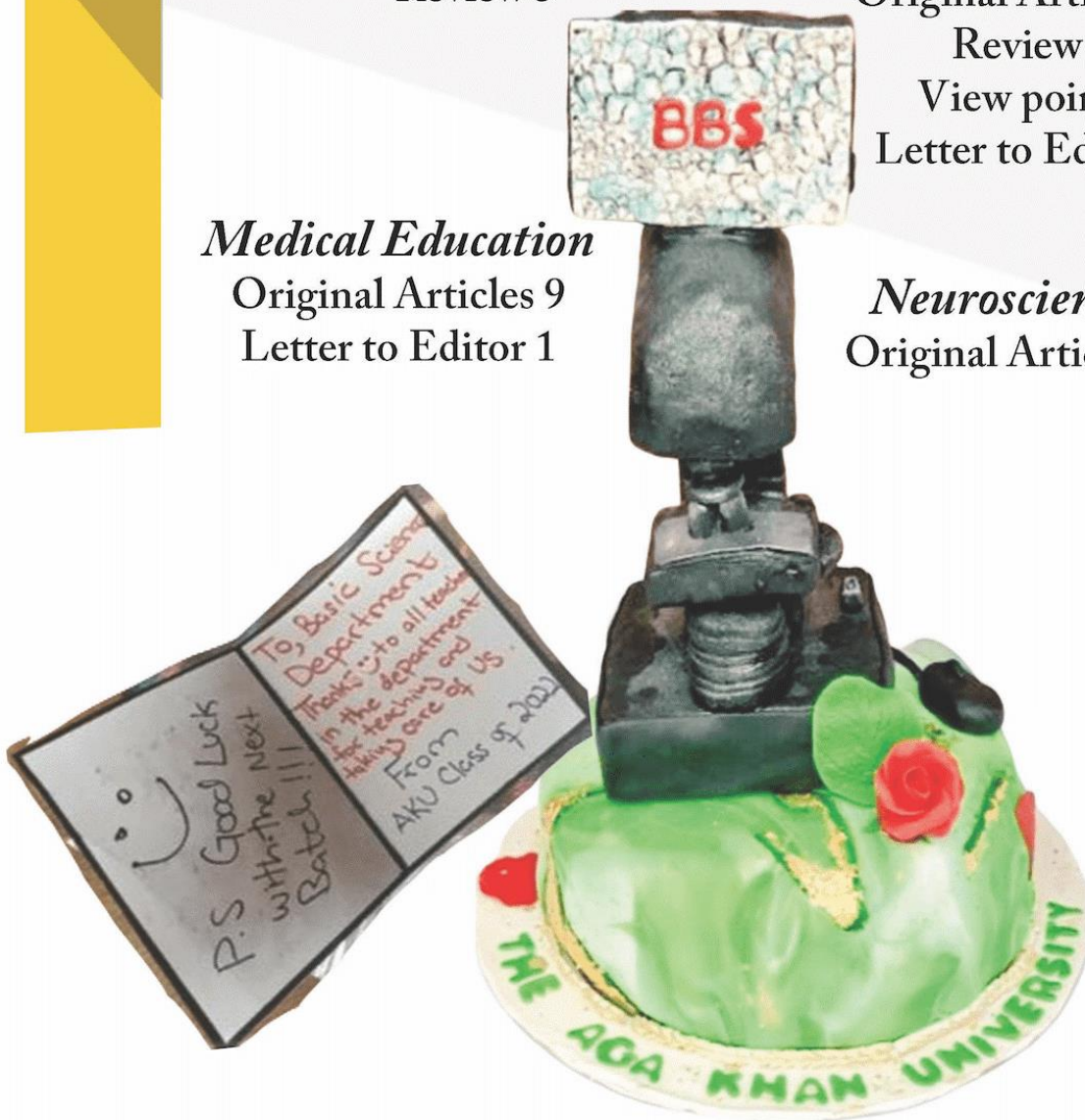
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For feedback and submissions please contact
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