

**The Aga Khan University - Pakistan Initiative for Non-Communicable Diseases
(AKUPI-NCDs) Research Training Program**

Funded by National Institute of Health, USA

Primary Investigator:

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Project Summary

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) represent an extraordinary global crisis. Over three quarters of all NCD related deaths and 82% of premature NCD-related deaths occur in low-middle income countries (LMIC). Locally relevant, high-quality data regarding NCDs are scarce and most low-middle income countries (LMICs) like Pakistan, are not equipped to manage this epidemic. A critical gap in the response of LMICs to the NCD epidemic is a dearth of trained researchers who can contribute to the understanding of prevalence, risk factors, and development and testing of safe, effective, and low-cost solutions.

With the aim to address this dearth and directly increase Pakistan's research capacity, the AKUPI-NCDs Research Training Program is a collaboration of the Department of Medicine, Institute for Global Health at the Aga Khan University and Duke University, USA.

AKUPI-NCDs is funded by the Fogarty International Center, National Institutes of Health, and USA.

The Fogarty–AKUPI NCD Research Certification Course

The Fogarty–AKUPI NCD Research Certification Course is a transdisciplinary, blended learning, research capacity building course on NCDs. It is a short-term career path included in the AKUPI-NCDs research training program. This course will provide high quality NCDs research training in a hybrid, time-flexible format for health care professionals. This certificate program will build capacity in research fundamentals, using NCD specific content to create a clear pathway for practical application. For details of the course see Table 1 and 2

Table 1. The Fogarty–AKUPI NCD Research Certification Course

Number of trainees	10 candidates / year (2022-2025)
Training Objective	By the end of the Fogarty-AKUPI NCD certification course, the participants will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design CVD relevant studies from research questions • Visualize and draw basic inferences from data (big data where relevant) and effectively communicate study results and findings • Develop a proposal to initiate a study.
Training Institution	AKU and Duke University
Eligibility	All health care professionals, preferably postgraduates or with early career linked to health care. Must have at least 15 years of education
Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trainees’ academic records/ transcripts • Letters of recommendations from their supervisors • Personal statement stating long term career goals, • Commitment to 6 months of training including the two-week onsite session
Course content	Please see Table 2
Duration	6 months (October 2022 to March 2023)
Research Practicum and supervision	Develop a proposal or refine an existing study, focused on NCD research under guidance of their individual supervisors in close liaison with expert program faculty
Research Grant	N/A
Deliverable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research proposal or Data collection of a study • All candidates pursuing Fogarty-AKUPI NCD research certification will be required to complete all online modules and onsite courses over the 6-month period.
Program Director	Dr. Zainab Samad and Dr. Gerald Bloomfield
To Apply	Portal will be open soon for application. For queries, please contact safia.awan@aku.edu

Table 2. Tentative Overview of the Fogarty-AKUPI-NCD Research Certification Course Modules			
Module	Module Title	Course Directors	Tentative dates
1	Introduction to the course; NCD-CVD & Risk factors	Zainab Samad Gerald S Bloomfield	3-10-2022 to 17-10-2022 (Online 1.5hrs/day)
2	Research Ethics	Kulsoom Ghias Satwat Hashmi Imran Nisar	31-10-2022 to 11-11-2022 (Online CITI, On-site portion included in Module 6)
3	Designing a Study in CVD	Gerald S. Bloomfield Daniel Mark	5-12-2022 to 16-12-2022 (Online 1.5hrs/day)
4	Implementation Research in CVD and Stroke	Asad Latif Ayeesha Kamal	2-01-2023 to 13-01-2023 (Online 1.5hrs/day)
5	Data Analysis and Data Sciences in NCD Research	Aysha Almas Rumi Chunara	06-02-2023 to 17-02-2023 (Online 1.5hrs/day)
6	Career Development Program	John Bartlett	March-2023 (On-site)