



**Surgery is a  
small  
community.  
Be aware of  
the bridges  
you burn -  
Anonymous**

# SIG CORE 2019-20

Ayesha  
Memon



Asma  
Merchant



Muhammad  
Ali



Musab  
Munir



Aun  
Muhammad

Shahmir  
Chauhan

Ayesha  
Noor

Maheen  
Mansoor



Ronika Devi  
Ukrani



Areesh  
Bhatti



Manzar  
Abbas



Ali Bin Abdul  
Jabbar



Muhammad  
Abdullah Javed



# THANKYOU



## **MUHAMMAD ALI** **EX-CONVENER**

Within no time, we rolled out our virtual series #SurgerySaturdays featuring surgeons from Pakistan, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Every Saturday, hundreds of surgery enthusiasts from 23 medical colleges across the country connected virtually. The sessions were approved for AMA PRA Category 1 credit by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to ensure quality and maintain standards.

Apart from introducing our nationwide ambassador program, which rapidly expanded to include 40+ ambassadors from 23 medical colleges across the country, the group also partnered with other organizations. These included getting registered with the American College of Surgeons' National SIG Directory (ACS), Association of Women Surgeons (AWS), and International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASS). Locally the group collaborated with the highest number of student groups and professional bodies within AKU. The collaborations included Pediatrics for Life (PFL), Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG), Student Research Forum (SRF), Neurosurgery Interest Group (NSIG), Society for Promotion of Innovation in Education (SPIE), Student Oncology Interest Group (SOIG) and Centre for Global Surgical Care (CGSC). To actively engage with the resulting ever-growing audience, we exponentially expanded our social media reach and developed our webspace ([aku.edu/sig](http://aku.edu/sig)) with help from AKU's Communications department.

2020- A year full of surprises and uncertainties. With both lives and livelihoods at stake, the canvas looked bleak and full of despair. At SIG, with the new year at its peak, a new structure with five divisions, two international conferences with dedicated networking breakfasts & student sessions, seven on-site workshops including an inter-university Surgery Olympics along with numerous talks & panel discussions, initiation of the SIG Ambassador's Program with a lot more in the pipeline- all cut short with the on-site activities suspended by late-March. Faced with an unprecedented scenario, the group analyzed the situation and came up with a plan. It involved getting our ever-supportive Alumni on board and expanding our ambassadors' network across the country while making affiliations with international stakeholders. The administrative model introduced at the start of the year- notably the addition of first-year students to the general body and giving the general body a role in co-organizing SIG activities- came in handy during this time.

In retrospect, 2019-20 was a year full of unique challenges and opportunities. With unparalleled support and guidance of our Patrons- Dr. Ather Enam, Chair Department of Surgery & Dr. Sadaf Khan, Associate Dean Undergraduate Medical Education, and active involvement of the irreplaceable Dr. Gulzar Lakhani & Mr. Shariff Charania, the year became an incredible action-packed experience! The 2019-20 annual census stood at thirty-eight activities with 4,100+ participants, including seven research-related activities creating 130 opportunities, eight workshops with 1150 slots, sixteen talks & panel discussions with 2850 participants, five domains of networking & outreach activities, and two international conferences.

As I pen down the final words of this message, I cannot help but feel the nostalgia of my three-year-long association of learning and growing with an incredible group of people - my Core team. Their passion and energy is what keeps the group goes from strength to strength with each successive year! As we enter 2021, I would like to felicitate the new team and wish them the best of luck. I have absolutely no doubt that they will keep the trajectory upwards with their exceptional leadership and dedication, if not steepen it further, In Sha Allah!

**Signing out,**  
**Muhammad Ali**  
**Convener 2019-20**



Instant gratification, adrenaline rush, and a very hands-on approach are what come to mind when thinking about life in the OR. What is often overlooked are the years of hard work, blood and sweat that go into reaching that point. Few are aware of the uphill battle that goes on behind the scenes, whether it is studies, relationships, or mental well-being, trainee surgeons have to put in their all to eventually get the satisfaction of saving lives independently and teach others to do the same.

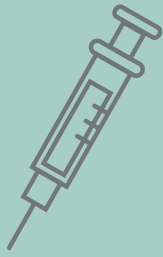
Surgery Interest Group provides a forum for interested students to come together and discuss ideas related to surgery and offers mentorship by our esteemed faculty and alumni. Last year, we organized ourselves into five subgroups: research, alumni outreach, education and skills development, event administration and media and publications. This increased our efficacy significantly. Despite being hit by an unprecedented global pandemic, we were able to organize sixteen talks and panel discussions, five workshops and provided seventy-four research and related positions.

This year, even though most activities are expected to be virtual, we plan to hold sessions related to each surgical specialty each month and start a national collaboration for research in alliance with our 150 ambassadors registered from over seventy medical colleges across Pakistan along with many other exciting opportunities.

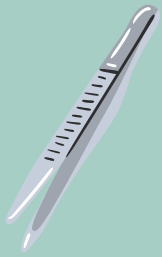
We hope to take the society one step forward despite the high standards achieved last year and showcase what a brilliant field surgery is and why all the efforts are worth it if that is your calling!



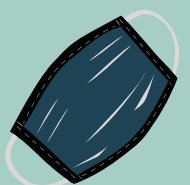
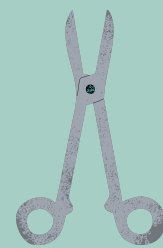
**MAHEEN MANSOOR  
CONVENER**



Surgeons must  
be very careful  
When they take  
the knife!  
Underneath their  
fine incisions  
Stirs the Culprit  
—Life!



**Whatever  
you do, do  
it well.  
— Walt  
Disney**



# DEPARTMENTS:

- RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
- EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- MEDIA AND MARKETING
- EVENTS AND ADMINISTRATION
- ALUMNI OUTREACH



# TALKS AND CONFERENCES:

## SECTION I: EVENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

Career in Cardiothoracic Surgery  
By Dr. Ghulam Abbas  
Dec 30, 2019

Robotics in Surgical Oncology  
By Dr. Faiz Bhora  
Jan 8, 2020

Pursuing a Career in Neurosurgery  
By Dr. Farhan Mirza  
Feb 6, 2020

Cardiothoracic Surgery: 2020 & Beyond- 11th International Biennial Conference  
Dec 6-8, 2019

Residency in the UK  
By Dr. Arish Haider  
Jan 3, 2020

Electives Made Simple- Panel Discussion  
Jan 13, 2020

Pursuing a Career in Neurosurgery  
By Dr. Asif Bashir  
Feb 7, 2020

Making your Mark! - Dr. Hassan Alam  
Keeping your Cool! - Dr. Eileen Bulger  
Feb 16, 2020

Beyond the States-Medical Graduate Training Opportunities in the UK  
June 28, 2020

5th AKU Annual Surgical Conference (Trauma conference)  
Feb 14-16, 2020

Women in Surgery  
June 27, 2020

Life in a Rut-Graduated & Pandemic hit  
By Dr. Arish Haider  
July 7, 2020

Research- A Bridge to Residency  
July 18, 2020

Step into a surgeon's Shoe (Trauma Surgery)  
Aug 27, 2020

Step into a surgeon's Shoe (Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Plastic surgery, Otolaryngology)  
Sep 12, 2020

Life as a Surgical Resident  
July 11, 2020

Can I get a Competitive Residency?  
July 25, 2020

Step into a surgeon's Shoe (Urology, CTS, Pediatric Surgery, Ob/Gyn)  
Sep 5, 2020

# Life in a rut- Graduated and Pandemic hit!

BY MARIA KHAN

What does it mean to give back? How do we take care of our mental health? How should one stay busy during the pandemic? Dr. Arish Haider, Alumnus of Class of 2018 at Aga Khan University, addressed these questions, amongst others, in his talk, 'Life in a rut- Graduated and Pandemic hit!', to an audience of 180 students from various medical colleges. Dr. Arish gave advice on these uncertain times, gave insight into the Internship, and talked about his volunteer work. Recently awarded for his selfless services at the Field Isolation Center at Expo Center Karachi, Dr. Arish has emerged as a prominent figure in light of his service to mankind. He not only talked about his journey but also imparted his knowledge about volunteering, motivating students to take this time to do meaningful work. He also talked about his plans for future training, and how the skills he acquired over the last year helped shape his residency interviews, and how his work made his CV

unique. Do not get trapped in the bubble of competition, he warned students. Similarly, he talked about mental health, how one can care for their own health, and how one can care for others wellbeing. After his insightful talk, he answered a number of questions about internships, finding volunteer-friendly NGOs, and helping those around us. Full of examples from his own life, Dr Arish talked about his medical school journey, his internship experience, and his work as a junior doctor. This talk helped students think about the side of medicine that is often not given due importance: being a good person. Students left that session thinking back to the reasons they gave for wanting to become doctors in their medical school interview, such as, 'it's a noble profession'. Dr Arish's words say it best, 'you need to bring nobility into the profession'.



Dr. Arish haider conducted this talk virtually on zoom due to Covid-19.



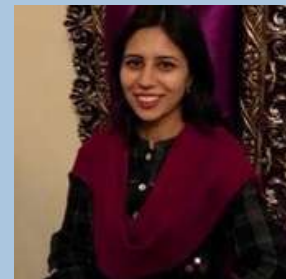
27 JUNE, 2020

# WOMEN IN SURGERY

BY- EMAAN FARHAN AND MUSKAAN ABDUL QADIR

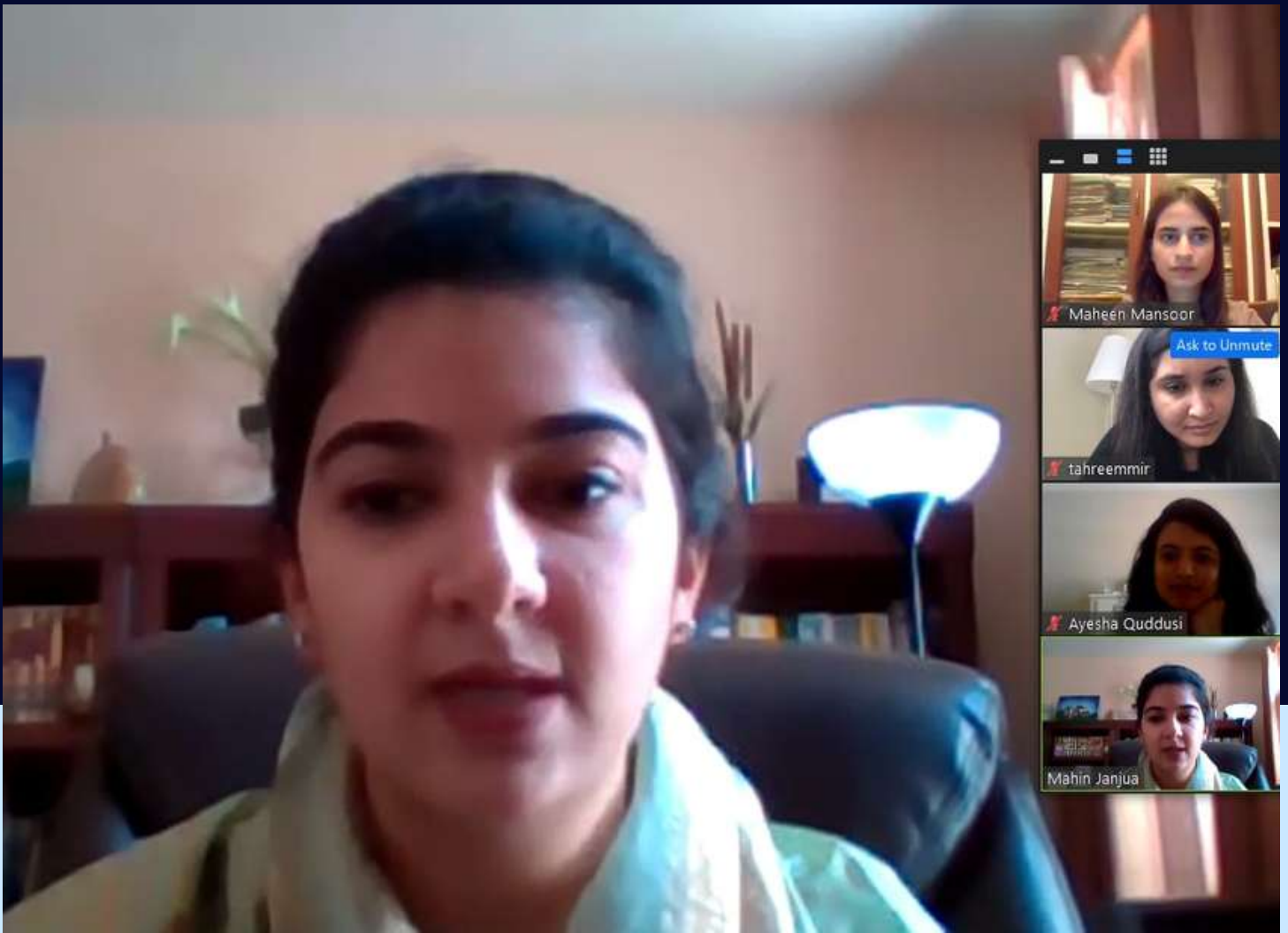


Every year, SIG hosts the “Woman in Surgery” conference, giving us all a glimpse into the lives of inspiring female surgeons. That being said, instead of letting the current COVID-19 crisis be an obstacle in their way, SIG used the situation to its advantage by hosting its largest panel discussion ever with 12 surgeons and over 400 participants from all over Pakistan. The panel consisted of Dr. Mahim Malik, Dr. Noor Seher Ali, Dr. Nuzhat Faruqi, Dr. Rufina Ali, Dr Javaria Qamar, Dr. Philomena Drago, Dr. Saniya Godil, Dr. Lubna Vohra, Dr. Roomasa Channa, Dr Raheela Mohsin, Dr. Hina Inam and Dr. Zuhera Khan. The brilliant panel spoke about breaking the glass ceiling, tackling bias from colleagues as well as patients, working through difficult times without losing their sense of purpose, the journey to and during residency, and much more. Perhaps, the most pertinent topic underlying the discussion was that of discrimination against female surgeons. They reminded us that regardless of your subspecialty, some people will always have slight reservations about you.



Your skills will be seen as questionable not just by the patients, but by your colleagues as well. There will be a lot of eyebrows raised and you will be subtly told to go for a more women-friendly field, but these women persisted. In fact, instead, they chose to focus on how lucky and privileged they to be amongst the small percentage of the population who gets to turn their passion into a career. The panel also touched upon the work-life balance, reminding us about how limited the training duration is, thus making it crucial to seize every opportunity to maximize learning. This will allow you to be content with yourself once you step out of the hospital, enabling you to focus on other things. The panel emphasized the necessity of having something one loves outside of medicine - a hobby to destress and to reflect on life. This is crucial to remember because the competitive environment, as well as the pressure of being responsible for innumerable lives daily, often evokes feelings of insecurity and stress in doctors, men and women alike. To overcome failure or its fear, quite common amongst healthcare professionals, the surgeons stressed on reminding themselves of the reason they chose this profession and their service to humanity. Towards the end, Dr. Saniya Godil summed up the discussion perfectly, in the end, saying that for females in this field, a strong work ethic and the way you interact with others are two key determinants for success be it residency or any other leadership role you will take on. Since the journey has its fair share of obstacles and challenges, you have to find people around you who will support and guide you. This will not only be your safety net in times of distress but will also help you create a positive environment that you can flourish in. And if you ever find yourself in a tough situation, you must always stand up for yourself. Finally, when asked if there were any prerequisites to pursuing surgery, they said that it all came down to passion, grit, and resilience. They knew their passion for surgery was enough of an assurity, so they persevered. And when they did, they ended up making a way for aspiring female surgeons.





# CAN I GET A COMPETITIVE RESIDENCY?

BY MARIA AHMED ZAIDI AND FATIMA GAUHAR

Securing a residency spot is the ultimate next step for virtually all medical students. For students aiming for competitive residencies, it is even more so of a challenge. Keeping this in mind, the SIG invited three distinguished alumni to talk on this matter for the fifth Surgery Saturday.

Dr. Ayesha Quddusi, (Class of 2017), the founding Convener of SIG and an aspiring Neurosurgeon who is currently doing her Research fellowship at Queen's University, Canada. Dr. Mahin Janjua, (Class of 2018) matched into a Categorical General Surgery Residency at Howard University Hospital, USA. Dr. Tahreem Mir, (Class of 2013), matched into an extremely competitive Yale ophthalmology residency program, USA in 2018. The panelists narrated their journeys and shared lessons they learned along the way as they battled through the innumerable obstacles as aspiring physicians training abroad.

They encouraged the participants to take it one day at a time, garner support from mentors in stressful times, be adaptable with their unique situation and struggles, put in that extra effort, and let everything else fall into place.

Overall, the session contained some invaluable advice on excelling in the pathway towards a competitive residency program.

# STEP INTO SURGEON'S SHOE

Rameen Ata Bajwa, Maria Khan, Fatima Gauhar, Sehar Salim Virani, Mohammed Abbas Motiwala

## EPISODE 1:

The first episode by Dr. Inam Pal was a motivation-filled session where he provided his invaluable insight on the road to becoming a surgeon and the challenges one might face along the way. Dr. Inam Pal wanted students to understand that there are no shortcuts to being a surgeon. However, he added that the high you get after successfully operating on a patient's life-threatening condition is unmatched and extraordinary. He addressed an important topic: surgical residencies abroad.

## EPISODE 2:

'Specialized surgery series' was the second episode. The panel included Dr. Saulat Fatimi from cardiothoracic surgery, Dr. Nuzhat Farooqui from urosurgery, Dr. Aliya Begum from obstetrics and gynecology, and Dr. Sohail Asghar Dogar from plastic surgery. They talked about their passion for surgery, the many long hours they had spent in their training, and it's sweet reward. They talked about their respective fields and their experience in training years too.

## EPISODE 3:

The third episode featured Dr Ather Enam, who shed light on neurosurgery, Dr Akbar Abbas, who talked about otolaryngology, Dr Haroon Tayyab, who talked about ophthalmology and Dr Fazl ur Rahman, on plastic surgery. They talked about their love for this field and whether surgery was everything they had hoped for. They discussed ways to strengthen residency applications, and about their residency training. They also answered student's burning questions, including questions about the challenges of surgical residencies and the skills required.

**"It's all about hard work. If you work hard and stay dedicated you will eventually get there" - Dr. Fazal**

'This series was truly a chance to see the life of surgeons through their own eyes. These talks were a great encouragement to medical students, aspiring surgeons, in not only understanding the different specialties of surgery, but also the different lifestyles and careers in surgery. Indeed, excellent Surgery Saturdays have been delivered.



# WORKSHOPS:

## SECTION II: EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



**Suturing & Knot  
Tying Workshop**  
Nov 29, 2019



**Suturing  
Workshop**  
Dec 8, 2019



**Email Writing  
Workshop**  
Dec 14, 2019



**Surgery Etiquettes  
Workshop**  
Jan 10, 2020



**Foley's Catheter  
Insertion**  
Feb 14, 2020



**Suturing  
Workshop**  
Feb 14, 2020



**Surgery Olympics**  
Feb 14, 2020



**CV Building  
Workshop**  
July 4, 2020



# CV WRITING WORKSHOP

BY MARIA KHAN, MARYAM ALI CHAUDRY, HADIA SOHAIL



What is the most important part of CV?

Education and clinical work including step scores are important if applying for match. While applying for academics, Research experience would be the most important aspect.

How to write a personal statement?

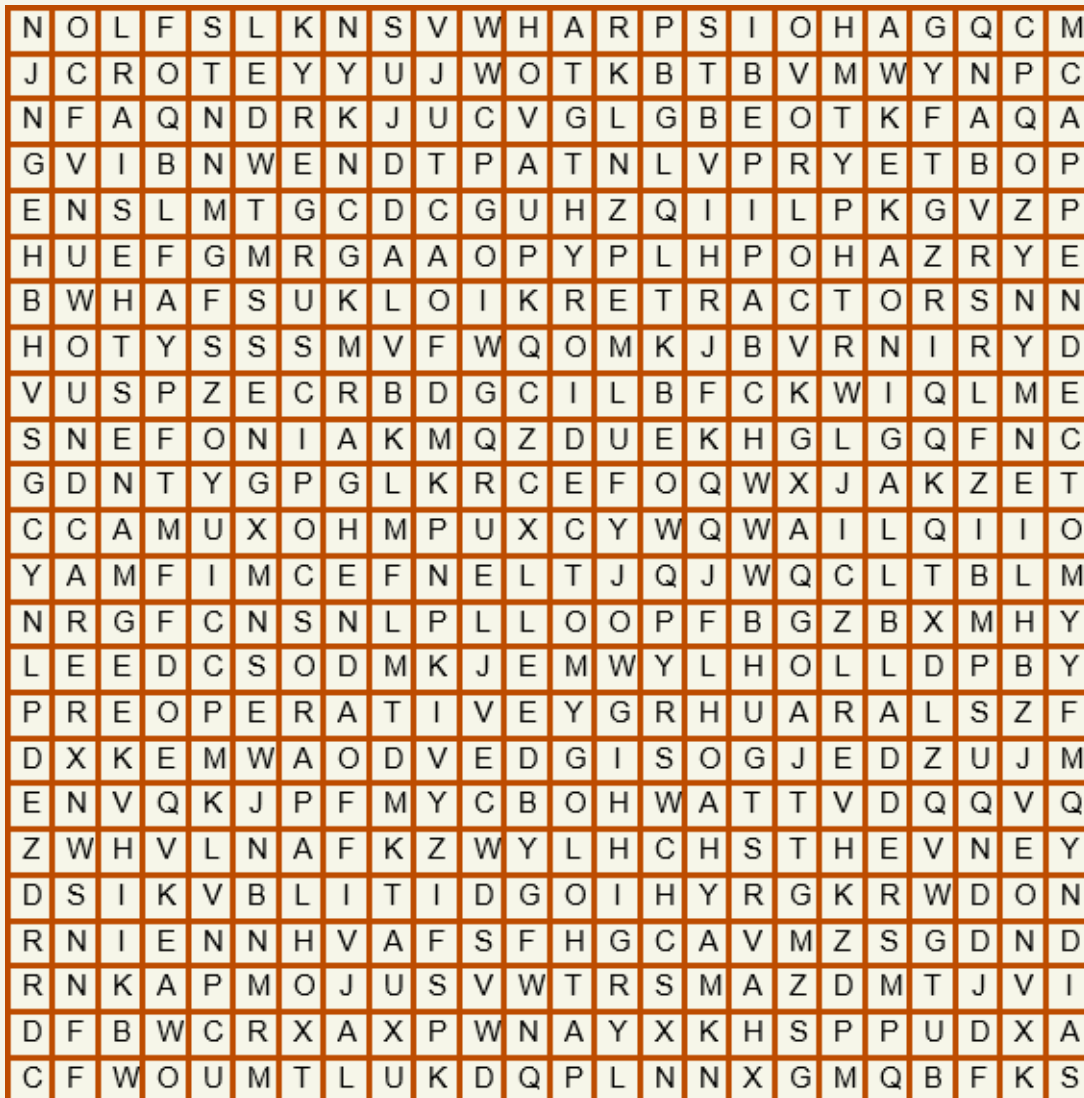
Personal statement gives you a chance to talk about yourself other than your feats. Talk about your life experiences or struggles. Write in a way you can connect to someone and they want to meet you.

What is the perfect CV? And how does one manage to nail it? Dr. Mustafa Iftikar, a graduate of the Class of 2016 and currently pursuing a residency in Ophthalmology at Johns Hopkins Hospital, took on the question that gives students nightmares. At the most-attended SIG event to date with an audience of 650 medical students all across Pakistan, he talked about the art of building a CV right from scratch. The talk started with an elaborate presentation prepared by Dr. Mustafa, which provided a structured run down of the technicalities of tackling this monstrous task, walking us through every aspect of CV writing, be it formatting or structuring or the etiquettes of presenting. To commence this task that feels almost herculean in nature to medical school students, He advises beginning compiling a master CV containing every record and building on it early within the medical school experience. Your future self will thank you when this personalized archive will serve as the foundation for the actual CV, courtesy of a few edits. It also proves to be good memorabilia for nostalgia's sake.

The next part of the meeting dove into the questions sent, which lent the talk more personalized. Like an excellent personal statement, Dr. Mustafa's answers struck the perfect balance, sharing anecdotes from his own medical journey and coupling that with some solid advice tailored to the specificities of each query. Owing to his expertise in matching into a competitive residency, the participants were inquisitive about his own medical school experience translating onto his CV. The take-home message of his reassuring talk, though, would definitely be that no matter how difficult things may seem, they have a way of working themselves out in the bigger picture. There will always be the help that can be extended as long as one reaches out for it.

# WORD SEARCH

ARE YOU A TRUE SURGERY ENTHUSIAST?  
SOLVE TO FIND OUT!



## WORDS TO FIND:

Retractors

Scalpel

Anesthesia

Appendectomy

Cyst

Gallbladder

Laparoscopic surgery

Lipoma

Pathology

Preoperative

Thyroidectomy

Wound care

## SECTION III

### Student Stories - Special Submissions



## Reminiscence of First Surgery

By Lailamah Rehman - UMDC



It was really not a usual day for me; it was my first ever day in the Operation Room as a medical student. Growing up in a house full of doctors and playing around in hospitals and here I was adoring OR's surgeries. I was on my surgery rotation at Creek general hospital. Wearing brand new navy blue shiny scrubs made me feel like a surgeon even though I was a 3rd-year medical student at that time but scrubs have their own spell. Dr. Omar, our supervisor, guided us about basic information and ethics of OR, and he was the one who operated on the patient. It was Sebaceous cyst surgery. For those of you who don't know what sebaceous cyst is: Sebaceous cysts are common noncancerous cysts of the skin. Cysts are abnormalities in the body that may contain liquid or semiliquid material. Sebaceous cysts are mostly found on the face, neck, or torso and aren't life-threatening. Our patient had it above his lacrimal gland skin (corner of the eye). The procedure was reasonably simple and minimally invasive. Dr. Shumaila was assisting and I was standing right next to her looking at their hands observing every cut and stitch. In doctor's jargon, they say, "To be surgeons you must have steady and delicate hands", and I discerned this on that momentous day. The surgery was over within 45 minutes, stitches were done and patient was sent to recovery room.



# PEERING INTO AN OPEN MIND

Selectives Experience with  
Dr. Ather Enam  
By Marium Hussain

It isn't every day that you get to experience a person's skull being opened and their brain operated on, let alone while the individual is still awake and responding to questions! The very first day of my selective rotation with Dr. Ather Enam happened to coincide with his surgery day. But while I worried myself sick pacing in front of the OR doors before meeting with him, I eventually came to know him as a charming and good-humored individual over time.

One of the best parts of doing selectives with Dr. Ather Enam is that he considers you to be a part of your team. You get to stand shoulder to shoulder and participate with his best residents and interns in all kinds of discussions, clinics, and ORs. I remember when we were first taught neurological examinations in the 2nd year and how difficult it was to remember each one and all the steps they entailed. By the second week of the rotation, I knew these exams like the back of my hand- doing all of them on your patient at 6 AM in the morning every single day certainly helps!

From the simplest of things, like differentiating between T1 and T2 on MRI scans, to more complicated stuff, like how to use the neuronavigation system in the OR, Dr. Ather Enam was generous when it came to real-time teaching and underscoring learning opportunities. His expertise as a neurosurgeon and accomplishments as a medical professional speak for themselves. People of all backgrounds travel from far and away just to get his opinion.

One of the highlights of the rotation was attending the teaching sessions that he conducted on Fridays. Here, you got to see a different side of him- someone so fascinated by the biology of the human mind and eager to share his knowledge with his disciples. The samosas and juice boxes were just a welcome bonus!

He has a genuine passion for the role he plays, which is reflected in the precise and uncompromising manner he commits to his responsibilities. To have gotten such an up-close look at how he goes about his business was an invaluable opportunity. At the end of the day, Dr. Ather Enam is the kind of professional I would consider myself incredibly lucky to be like one day.

# **YOUR BIGGEST COMPETITOR**

**A  
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*Manzar Abbas*

Ever thought about your peers making a fortune during the pandemic, and you were just busy on social media? A lot of us would relate to this, no?

James P. Carse, in his book "Finite and Infinite Games," talks about two types of games in the Game World. There is a finite game that has specific rules and goals. If we follow these rules, we win (like baseball). Then there is an infinite game that does not have strict rules. The goal is clear, but authorities are malleable. We change our strategies based on the scenario's need to survive until the end (like Chess).

Life is no different from this. We can use the same philosophy in life. There are two types of people. One of the two has finite thoughts, while the others have infinite thoughts. Let me explain this in simple terms. Imagine you own a business, and while starting it, you write in the constitution that "We want to take over all our competitors' businesses. After one year, we will be the best of all." OKAY! This is a beautiful plan. But how would you define "Best" here? What parameters would be used to gauge the success? Is it the sales, customer satisfaction, stocks, what? Is this a finite approach or an infinite approach?

Imagine the same business, and you write in your constitution that "We will work hard to improve our product day by day. Every time we wake up, we will try our best for our company to be a better version of itself in the upcoming week."

Have you noticed the difference? In the first example, we are talking about our peer businesses. We set our limit that we must take over others. We must earn more than the other companies in your field. We are focusing more on the product than the process itself. We will waste most of our time and effort in procrastination and a sense of failure, which does not even exist first hand. We will always be in a hurry; we will keep strict deadlines, and eventually, we will start compromising quality over quantity. We would want to achieve our RANDOM figures so desperately that we might hurt our co-workers without even realizing it. This is the finite player.

In the second example, we are talking about ourselves. Your competitor is none but You. The product we launched last week would be terrible, no doubt. The product we will launch next week should be a better version of that. And the subsequent development should be a better version of the last one, which goes on until we produce something gold. But still, we can work on that. We can always improve that. Because now we are not wasting our efforts on comparing our product with other manufacturers. We have just one goal, to be a better version of ourselves every day. Our rules are malleable. We can change our business' dimension based on situations, but we cannot do that in the first example. If we do that there, we would be out of the competition. But here, we have no competitor. We can do whatever we want. This is an infinite player.

Netflix did that. Before 2007, it used to give movies on rent. They used to deliver DVDs at home. But when they saw things changing, they moved to the subscription model in 2007. And that made their fortune. While we had Blockbuster LLC, working on the same rent model. They stuck to their old strategy of renting movies, and now they are bankrupt (no one even remembers them).

We at AKU could be any of these two players. We can be a finite player or an infinite player. How would you know where you lie? That is the thing. We do not know; we CHOOSE. It is not our fate; it is our mindset. We have to choose whom do we want to compete with; ourselves or our peers. Do I want to compete with a friend who is preparing for STEPS, or do I want to compete with myself who knew little about photoshop yesterday, a bit more on the next day and more on the following day, and eventually become an expert in photoshop? The choice is ours.

Don't follow the trends. If your friend is doing research in the first year, it is better to counsel them that they need to enjoy and to learn new skills (not a publication). If your third-year friend is stepping and has completed two revisions of FA, and you are stuck at just page 11, do not think you have lost the game. Maybe stepping is not your cup of tea; perhaps you need more time to get in the flow. If you explore your passion and end up excelling, someone might give you their card and tell you, "You have met the right person. This is my card- shoot me an email". Wouldn't that be a dream come true!

What else would you want from life???

If your fifth-year friend is writing a book, you should not start writing another book by blindly following them. You might enjoy playing your favorite sport at the SRC and qualifying for the nationals.

While blindly following our peers isn't healthy, we can still get inspiration from them. We can ask for the problems they faced along the way. We can take ideas from them. Pursue your passion with excellence, and success will follow you. You will find peace, joy, and healthy life.



# International Relationships

## American College of Surgeons International SIG directory

The American College of Surgeons (ACS) is a scientific and educational association of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to improve the quality of care for the surgical patient by setting high standards for surgical education and practice. Surgery Interest Group joined the International SIG Directory of ACS in February 2020 with the aim of better connectivity and resource sharing with groups working towards similar objectives across the globe.

## Association of Women Surgeons

The Association of Women Surgeons (AWS), founded in 1981, is a not-for-profit educational and professional organization. With approximately 3,000 members of all genders, AWS is one of the largest organizations dedicated to enhancing the interaction and exchange of information between women surgeons. Truly an international organization, AWS has members in over 40 countries.

## International Association of Student Surgical Societies

Student surgical societies encourage surgical exposure, interest, leadership, and education at a pre-specialist level and, in so doing, mould the world's next generation of surgeons. IASSS aims to unite the world's existing student surgical interest groups, facilitate the creation of new ones, and ensure every aspiring surgeon around the world has the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals locally and internationally. Through the IASSS network, we hope that surgical societies across the globe can work together to set the agenda for the future of surgery.

## SECTION IV Collaborations and Recognitions



# Ambassadors Programme



Surgery is a passion for many medical students, irrespective of the university they belong to. However, due to limited resources and guidance, even the most passionate students might miss out on the chance to learn about and explore surgery. Most students don't have an avenue through which they can showcase their knowledge and talent. Having identified these problems, the Surgery Interest Group at Aga Khan University formulated the 'Ambassadors Programme' in 2020.

To get equal opportunities and further explore a surgical career's intricacies, the Ambassadors Programme aimed at bringing surgical enthusiasts from different universities to one platform, where they could share their resources.

Students from medical universities within Karachi were reached out to and enrolled within the programme in the initial phase, based on their passion, commitment, and creative ideas. In the second phase, we Nationalise the Ambassadors Program to medical colleges all over Pakistan. The roles played by these ambassadors ranged from publicizing various events held by SIG in their respective institutes to contributing their ideas for further igniting a passion for surgery in medical students.

With the onset of the pandemic, SIG had to conduct all its events virtually. This helped to involve students from enrolled from universities outside of Karachi. The programme aided surgical enthusiasts all over Pakistan to attend various conferences and events based on alumni mentorship and the development of surgical skills.

The Ambassadors Programme allowed an increased number of medical students to attend these events at subsidized costs, allowing the propagation of our aim and promoting further skills in students within Pakistan who are passionate to pursue surgery as their medical career. We expanded our programme further in 2021, and we got an overwhelming response of 700+ applicants. The program currently encompasses 67 medical universities spread across 29 cities with 150+ ambassadors working together to achieve SIG's objectives.

# Pak-Surg Collaborative

Usama Waqar 023 AKU



PakSurg is the first-ever national trainee-led surgical research collaborative in Pakistan. It was established by the Surgery Interest Group at the Aga Khan University to promote national coordination in surgical research. Supported by the Department of Surgery and Center for Global Surgical Care at the Aga Khan University, PakSurg aims to initiate research studies to enhance national surgical research output via multi-center collaborations. This will allow PakSurg to generate prospective, standardized, and nationally-comparable data to inform evidence-based surgical care with the aim of improving outcomes for patients undergoing surgery in Pakistan.

To achieve these goals, PakSurg plans to start multi-center, prospective research projects which will be open to all hospitals providing surgical care in Pakistan. Mini-teams of three to five collaborators will collect data on their patients for a defined period within the project time frame and enter it into our secure, Redcap-based project servers. All contributors will be named as authors on publications arising from the study.



The first study that PakSurg has planned, titled “PakSurg 1: Determining the epidemiology and risk factors of surgical site infections in Pakistan – A prospective, multicenter cohort study”, aims to explore the epidemiology and patient, surgical practice, and hospital-level risk factors for the development of surgical site infections (SSIs). SSIs are one of the most common postoperative complications and are largely preventable. This project will generate comprehensive data from most Pakistani provinces and cities which will then inform evidence-based strategies for SSI prevention in Pakistan.

# Meet the New Core



**Asma Merchant**  
Treasurer



**Musab Munir**  
General Secretary



**Maheen Mansoor**  
Convener SIG



**Aun Muhammad**  
Senior Core



**Sehar Salim Verani**  
Edu & Skill Development



**Ayesha Akbar**  
Events Administration



**Manzar Abbas**  
Media & Publications



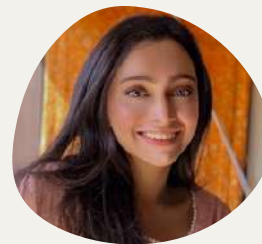
**Ali Bin Abdul Jabbar**  
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**Ronika Devi Ukrani**  
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**Muskaan Abdul Qadir**  
Junior Core



**Emaan Farhan**  
Junior Core



**Javeria Tariq**  
Junior Core



**Usama Waqar**  
Junior Core



**Hajra Arshad**  
Junior Core



# STUDENT GALLERY!



Ovarian tumor - Most likely Dysgerminoma  
Maheen Mansoor 2021 AKU



Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma in Lung Extending  
to Left Atrium (Pneumonectomy with partial  
atrial resection)  
Manzar Abbas 2022 AKU



Wound healing by secondary intention in 5 days  
Left -> Before                      Right -> After  
Ali bin Abdul Jabbar 2022 AKU

## CHIEF EDITORS

*Hajra Arshad*  
*Manzar Abbas*

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*Angelina Jessani*  
*Maria Khan*

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