



BIPS NEWS



A Quarterly Newsletter of
Baqai Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences

“Strength and growth come only through continuous effort and struggle” - Napoleon Hill

HEC Post-graduate and Institutional Performance Evaluation Report

The Quality Assurance Agency of HEC visited BMU for Institutional Performance Evaluation (IPE) and review of its postgraduate programs from 7th to 9th January 2020. HEC conducted a detailed inspection, and University Portfolio Report (UPR) was evaluated. During the inspection, the two teams visited BIPS and checked its facilities, including research labs and asked several questions regarding various aspects of undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The Director of BIPS also showed them the research publications, chapters and books published by the faculty members of BIPS. Both teams highly appreciated the organizational setup, facilities, and the outcome. Such appreciation has also been received in writing from the HEC in their final report. HEC, in its report, has continued its approval for all postgraduate programs at BIPS and has also highly commended the facilities and set up and has made some recommendations for further improvement.



Dr. Zuneera Conducted a Course on Innovations of Diabetes Care

Dr. Zuneera Akram (Lecturer, Pharmacology) was invited as a guest speaker at Sardar Yasin Malik Professional Development Centre, University of Karachi, on 18th January 2020 to conduct a course on ‘Innovations of Diabetes Care’. The purpose of the course was to provide knowledge to the participants regarding the latest advancements in the use of antihyperglycemic drugs.

Orientation Ceremony of the 25th Batch of Pharm. D.

The orientation of the newly admitted students of the 25th Batch of Pharm. D. was held on 28th January 2020 at Sabir Ali Auditorium of BIPS. Director BIPS, Prof. Dr. M. A. Sheraz, welcomed the students and their parents. He introduced the faculty members and explained the semester system and its rules and regulations to the students in detail. The regular classes of the newly admitted students started on 29th January 2020.



Workshop on Conflict Resolution Skills

Quality Enhancement Cell, BMU arranged a workshop on ‘Conflict Resolution Skills’ on 30th January 2020. It was the second of the series of workshops on student counseling being arranged for the nominated faculty members of each institution of BMU. From BIPS, Dr. Sadia Kazi, Dr. Ayesha Nabi, Dr. Sharonia Butt and Dr. Muhammad Ahsan Ejaz attended the workshop. The workshop aimed to provide training to the teachers so that they can provide professional career counseling services to the students. Dr. Sobia Aftab, Associate Professor, Institute of Clinical Psychology, University of Karachi, was the trainer while Dr. Azra Shaheen (Student Counselor and Clinical Psychologist at BMU) was the coordinator in the workshop.



Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Zuneera Akram

Editorial Team

Dr. Sharonia Butt
 Dr. M. Ahsan Ejaz

For further information
 or any query email:
m.ahsanejaz@baqai.edu.pk

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Postgraduate Admissions at BIPS

The postgraduate aptitude test for the session 2020 was conducted on 23rd January 2020. The candidates were later interviewed on 4th February 2020 by a panel comprising of the Dean, Director, Chairpersons, and senior Professors. The Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR), BMU, on the scores of university admission test (UAT) and interviews announced the names of successful candidates. This year 20 students have been admitted to M. Phil. program (11 in Pharmacology, 05 in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and 04 in Pharmaceutics) and 5 in Ph.D. (03 in Pharmaceutics, 01 each in Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Chemistry).

Fire Safety Training

A fire safety training for the teaching and non-teaching faculty members was arranged on 30th January 2020 at Nizam Stadium of BMU. The participants were briefed about the fire safety measures of the building and laboratories and were trained for the correct use of fire extinguisher and fire blankets.



Counseling Session on Scope of Pharmacists in the Medical Equipment Industry



BIPS in association with BIPSAA organized a counseling session on "The Hybrid Career: An Exploratory Session of Career Routes for a Pharmacist in Electromedical and Equipment Industry" on 30th January 2020, for 4th (Batch 22) and final year (Batch 21) students at Sabir Ali Auditorium. Mr. Jahanzeb Khalid (Batch 6 Alumnus, National Sales Manager at Muller & Phipps, Member of MEDICA Diagnostic Academy, Germany, and Member of MEDTEC Forum Europe) was the counselor of the session. The students were guided about choosing a career in a relatively unexplored field of Medical Equipment. Mr. Jahanzeb explained in detail the benefits to the future pharmacists of entering into this field.

Final Year Students Visited Indus Hospital

Final year students of BIPS visited the Indus Hospital on 4th and 6th of February 2020. Indus Hospital is a welfare hospital that is catering to the needs of a large population of Karachi. Dr. Arif Arain (Senior Manager Pharmacy), along with other pharmacists, facilitated the students during the visit and showed various pharmacies and explained the working mechanism. The visit provided the students with a great learning experience related to the hospital pharmacy. Dr. Sharonia Butt (Lecturer, Department of Pharmaceutics), Dr. Nimra Khan (Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy Practice), Dr. Sidra Maqbool (Lecturer, Department of Pharmacy Practice) and Dr. Sobia Salman (Deputy Chief Pharmacist, Fatima Hospital, BMU) accompanied the students. The management of BIPS is profoundly grateful to the Indus Hospital officials for their kind cooperation and hope that such support will continue in the future as well.



Seminar on Bioinformatics

A seminar on 'Bioinformatics and its Role in Pharmaceutical Research' was held on 13th February 2020 in Sabir Ali Auditorium of BIPS for 4th (Batch 22), final year (Batch 21) and postgraduate students. The seminar was conducted by Ms. Khalida Naveed (Assistant Professor, BIIT). Ms. Khalida explained the basics of bioinformatics and provided useful information to the students.



Meetings of Board of Studies and Board of Faculty

A meeting of the Board of Studies and later Board of Faculty was held on 12th February 2020, at BIPS. August members from multiple universities including Prof. Dr. Faiyaz Vaid (KU), Prof. Dr. Iqbal Azhar (KU), Prof. Dr. Raheela Najam (KU), Prof. Dr. Nausheen Mushtaq (KU), Dr. Farid Hasan (KU), Dr. Iyad Naeem (KU), Prof. Dr. Noorjahan (DUHS), Dr. Fakhshena Anjum (DUHS), Dr. Rabia Bushra (DUHS), Prof. Dr. Huma Shareef (JSMU), Prof. Dr. Nudrat Fatima (JUW), Dr. Arif Sabah (ZU), Dr. Arfa Akram (FUUAST), and faculty members of BIPS attended the meeting.



BIPS being the first pharmacy institute in the private sector of Pakistan, intends to introduce a few new topics in its syllabus of Pharm. D. including:

1. Dental Pharmacy (in collaboration with Baqai Dental College) to be introduced for the first time in Pakistan.
2. Bioinformatics and its Applications in Pharmaceutical Sciences (in collaboration with Baqai Institute of Information Technology).

These topics are aimed to provide knowledge to the students and would be highly beneficial in the development of their professional careers.

Counseling Session of Vlogger Mr. Irfan Junejo



The famous YouTuber and Vlogger of Pakistan, Mr. Irfan Junejo, along with Mr. Hamza Ibrahim, conducted a counseling session on 'Entrepreneurship' on 18th February 2020 at Sabir Ali Auditorium of BIPS. Mr. Irfan Junejo told his inspiring journey of hard work, failures, and success and shared the lessons he learnt. Later, Mr. Hamza Ibrahim also shared his experiences. Both Vloggers motivated the students to explore new fields and take on challenges to find the best version of themselves. The students from various batches attended the session and asked several questions from the counselors.

Awareness Seminar on Corona Virus Pandemic

An awareness seminar regarding protection from Corona Virus in the current pandemic situation was arranged in Saeeda Auditorium of the University on Thursday, 27th February 2020. All students, teachers and staff members of the BMU attended the seminar. The audience was briefed about the symptoms, diagnosis, possible treatment and management, precautions and how to stop its spread. Prof. Dr. Jameel Ahmed, Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed, Prof. Dr. Kashif Ikram, Dr. Zulfiqar Hyder and Dr. Talha Siddiqui provided useful information to the audience with particular emphasis on 'not to panic' and avoid social contact by staying at home.



Early Summer Vacations at BIPS Due to COVID-19

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, early summer vacations have been announced at BMU. The university will remain closed for all academic activities till 31st May 2020. All programs, including the sports week, examinations, and the start of the new session of postgraduate studies, have been postponed.

Employee(s) of the Month Award

JANUARY 2020



Mr. Shahid Hussain
Lab Technician

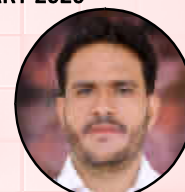


Mr. Imam Bux
GDS

FEBRUARY 2020



Mr. M. Azharuddin
Computer Operator



Mr. Zahid Hussain
Lab Assistant

Participation in Conferences/Symposium

5th Biennial Conference (ICON 2020)

Maryam Inayat, student of 4th Pharm.D. (Batch 22), under the supervision of Dr. Zuneera Akram and co-supervision of Ms. Aisha Noreen, participated in the ICON 2020 held on 17th to 19th January 2020 at Marriott Hotel, Karachi. The theme of the conference for the year 2020 was 'Building Bridges for Better Healthcare'. The conference was organized by the Indus Health Network of Indus Hospital, Karachi.

3rd Annual Symposium on Emergency Medicine

Some of the faculty members of BIPS, including Ms. Aisha Noreen (Senior Lecturer, Pharmaceutical Chemistry), Dr. Zuneera Akram (Lecturer, Pharmacology), Dr. Muzammil Hussain (Lecturer, Pharmacology), attended the 3rd annual symposium on 'Emergency Medicine' at Ziauddin University on 25th January 2020. Dr. Sobia Akhter (Deputy Chief Pharmacist, Fatima Hospital, BMU) also accompanied the faculty members in the symposium.

8th International Conference for Endorsing Health Science Research (ICEHSR)

The 8th International Conference for Endorsing Health Science Research was held on 14th March 2020 and was organized by Advance Educational Institute & Research Center (AEIRC). The conference was conducted online to avoid mass gathering. Both undergraduate and postgraduate students of BIPS participated in the conference and presented five different abstracts in oral and poster categories. All the students were supervised by Dr. Zuneera Akram and Co-supervised by Dr. Muzammil Hussain and Ms. Aisha Noreen.

Semester Cell Announced Terminal Examination Results

The annual results for Pharm. D. 5th (Batch 20), 4th (Batch 21), 3rd (Batch 22), 2nd (Batch 23), and 1st year (Batch 24) have been announced by the Semester Cell of BIPS. The following students secured the first three positions:

Batch 20: Maira Latif (1st Position), Ramsha Hussain (2nd Position), Saman Naeem (3rd Position)

Batch 21: Zoha Iqbal Sorathia (1st Position), Shumaila Latif (2nd Position), and Sania Rustam Khan (3rd Position)

Batch 22: Maryam Inayat (1st Position), Aqsa Khan (2nd Position), and Iqra Khan (3rd Position)

Batch 23: Haiqa Arif (1st Position), Nehan Zeb (2nd Position), M. Saif Ali Khan (3rd Position)

Batch 24: Rabia Zafar (1st Position), Sunaina Kashif (2nd Position), Hira Khalid (3rd Position)

New Appointments



Dr. Sidra Maqbool

BIPS has appointed two new faculty members in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. Dr. Sidra Maqbool (Pharm.D. from JUW and M.Phil. from HU) has joined as a Lecturer while Dr. Anum Akbar (Pharm. D. from FUUAST and MBA from IU, in progress) has joined as a Teaching Assistant. Both new appointees have working experience in both the hospital and pharmaceutical industries. The team of BIPS News wishes them the best of luck for their future endeavors.



Dr. Anum Akbar

Papers Published

1. Zubair Anwar, Muhammad Ali Sheraz, Sofia Ahmed, Nafeesa Mustaan, Adeela Khurshid, Wajiha Gul, Saif ur Rehman Khattak, Iqbal Ahmad. Photolysis of thiochrome in aqueous solution: A kinetic study. Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology B: Biology. 2020;203:111766.
2. Adeel Arsalan, Kiran Qadeer, Syed Abid Ali, Sofia Ahmed, Rafeeq Alam Khan, Muhammad Ali Sheraz, Sidra Hassan, Iqbal Ahmad. The effect of albumin in photostabilization of riboflavin: A kinetic study. Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology A: Chemistry. 2020;394:112456.
3. Hira Naeem, Syed Naim-Ul-Hassan Naqvi, Rehana Perveen, Farhan Ishaque, Raheela Bano, Hina Abrar, Adeel Arsalan, Nousheen Malik. Efficiency of proteolytic enzymes in treating lumbar spine osteoarthritis (low back pain) patients and its effects on liver and kidney enzymes. Pakistan Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences. 2020;33(1):371-378.