



BIPS NEWS

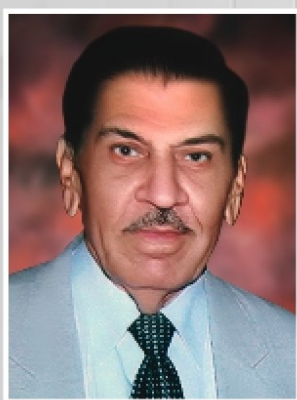


A Quarterly Newsletter of
Baqai Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences

Quote of the Quarter: "You are Never Too Old to Set Another Goal or to Dream a New Dream" – C.S. Lewis

OBITUARY

Prof. Dr. Khursheed Ali Khan (1936–2021)



Prof. Dr. Khursheed Ali Khan, former Registrar Baqai Medical University and Professor of Microbiology died after a prolonged illness on July 20, 2021. He was one of the pioneers in Pakistan in the field of Microbiology. He did B.Sc, M.Sc, and Ph.D. from the University of Karachi (UoK). Prof. Dr. Khursheed had more than 55 years of academic experience. He played a vital role in the development of the Microbiology department in the UoK before joining BIPS in 1997. He published more than 75 articles and 4 books and also supervised 7 M.Phil and 3 Ph.D. students. Prof. Dr. Khursheed played a fundamental role in the development of BIPS and BMU in its early years. His demise is a great loss for the university and scientific community. His selfless and caring nature will keep him alive in the hearts of his students.

Prof. Dr. Syed Riaz Baquar (1935–2021)



Prof. Dr. Syed Riaz Baquar, former Professor of Pharmacognosy at BIPS and former Editor-in-Chief of Baqai Journal of Health Sciences, passed away on September 13, 2021. Prof. Dr. Baquar was one of the eminent scholars of his field in Pakistan. He obtained his B.Sc. (Hon.) and M.Sc. degrees from the University of Karachi and a Ph.D. degree from Kiel University (Germany). He was awarded an honorary D.Sc. degree by BMU. He carried out postdoctoral research at the University of Bonn (Germany) and before joining BIPS in 1997, he worked at the University of Ife (Nigeria), University of Sokoto (Nigeria), and Moi University (Kenya). He also worked in PCSIR for some short-term durations due to his frequent research placements abroad.

Prof. Dr. Baquar was awarded a "Certificate of Honor" by the German government on account of his efforts for Science in Pakistan and Germany. He published more than 80 articles in reputable journals and 4 books, one of which was the first on Medicinal Plants of Pakistan being published in the country that is still used as a reference. Prof. Baquar was awarded 'Tamgha-e-Imtiaz' by the President of Pakistan in 2015.

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Final Year Students Won Gold and Silver Medals in Inter-University Competition

Students of Pharm.D. final Year (Batch 22), under the supervision of Dr. Muneeba Usmani (Lecturer, Department of Pharmaceutics), participated in an Inter-University speech and project presentation competition on “*Role of Pharmacist in the Changing World*” organized by Martindow Pharmaceuticals on the occasion of World Pharmacists’ Day. The students from different universities in Karachi participated in the competition.

The hard work by the team paid off as Ms. Maham Ali won a gold medal in the speech competition and the BIPS team also won a Silver medal in the project presentation. The team headed by Dr. Muneeba Usmani included Maham Ali, Aqsa Khan, Ayesha Ahmed, Hamza Mansoor, Mahrukh Khaliq, Maryam Inayat, Musab Khan, Shahroz Faisal, Yumna Rashid, and Zainab Tilawat.



For their outstanding performance, the Vice Chancellor and Director Planning and Development of BMU awarded a cash prize individually to each member of the team.



New Appointments

Dr. Sohail Nasir and Dr. Saima Hussain have recently joined as Lecturers in the Department of Pharmacy Practice at BIPS.



Dr. Sohail Nasir is a Pharm.D. graduate of BIPS. He completed his Masters in Pharmacotherapy and Medicine Management from the University of Sunderland, UK, and has experience of almost ten years of working in the community pharmacies of UK, UAE, and Pakistan.



Dr. Saima Hussain is a Pharm.D. graduate of the University of the Punjab, Lahore. She obtained her M.Phil degree in Pharmacy Practice from Jinnah University for Women. Dr. Saima has working experience of two years in hospital pharmacy and more than three years in academia.

Internships of Pharm.D. Students at Patel Hospital

Patel Hospital has initiated an internship program for the Pharm.D students in which they have agreed on the request of the Director, BIPS to accommodate the students of BMU on regular basis. Students will be selected from the fourth and final year Pharm.D. for an internship at the Pharmacy department of Patel Hospital. The exposure will provide the students a chance to gain work experience and learn about the basics of a hospital pharmacy. The program will be of vast assistance for the students who want to pursue a career in hospital pharmacy. BIPS is immensely grateful to Patel Hospital’s management for providing this learning opportunity to its students.



Ms. Aisha Noreen

Course Attended by Faculty Members

Ms. Aisha Noreen and Dr. Zuneera Akram attended an online course on "Introduction to Computer-Aided Drug Designing" conducted by Udeemy. The course covered the topics of computational methods in drug designing, pharmacophores, the relevance and methods involved in the improvement of binding interactions between a drug and its targets (finding lead compounds, the role of combinatorial chemistry, drug actions at receptors, improvement of pharmacokinetic properties of drugs.



Dr. Zuneera Akram

Postgraduate Degrees Awarded



Ph.D.

Dr. Hina Yaseen (BIPS alumna and Assistant Professor at DUHS) defended her thesis for Ph.D. in Pharmacognosy on August 10, 2021. Dr. Hina conducted her doctoral research on "Phytochemical And Phytopharmacological Studies of Aerial Parts of *Croton bonplandianus*" under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Shaukat Khalid (Chairperson, Department of Pharmacognosy). Dr. Hina is the first candidate in Sindh's private sector universities to be awarded a Ph.D. degree in Pharmacognosy.



M.Phil.

Dr. Amna Sheikh defended her M.Phil. thesis in Pharmacology under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Rehana Perveen (Chairperson, Department of Pharmacology), on September 1, 2021. Her research topic was "To Study the Anti-platelet Effect of Thiosemicarbazone and Piperidine Derivative on Human Blood".



BIPS Alumni Received Scholarship for Masters in Italy

Mr. Afzal Ali Nawaz (Batch 17, 2017) has received a fully funded scholarship for Masters in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at the University of Malan, Italy. The entire team of BIPS News and the faculty wishes best of luck to Mr. Afzal for his future endeavors.

Employees of the Month

JULY 2021

Mr. Abdul Ahad
Lab TechnicianMr. Majid Gabol
Lab Attendant

AUGUST 2021

Mr. M. Azharuddin
Computer OperatorMr. Zahid Hussain
Lab Assistant

SEPTEMBER 2021

Mr. Wazahat Hussain
Lab AssistantMr. Zahid Hussain
Lab Assistant

Employees of the Year

Mr. Zahid Hussain
Lab Assistant

The employee who won the maximum Employee of the Month Awards is being selected as the Employee of the Year. This time, there has been a tie between Mr. Zahid Hussain (Lab Assistant) and Mr. Abdul Bari (Lab Attendant) as both of them have won four times each from July 2020 to June 2021. The Dean, FPS awarded the certificates and cash prizes to both the winners.

Mr. Abdul Bari
Lab Attendant

Synopses Defense by M.Phil. and Ph.D. Candidates

The postgraduate students who cleared their Final Certifying Examination (FCE) in 2021 defended their synopses in front of the Departmental Research Review Committee (DRRC). The students presented their synopses and explained their objective and tentative plan of work to the members of the committee and replied to their questions and queries. After making the suggested changes in their synopses (if any), the students have submitted their synopses to the Ethics Committee. After the review by the Ethics Committee, the synopses will be submitted to the Board of Advanced Studies and Research (BASR) for final review and approval.

Commencement of On-campus Physical Classes of Pharm.D.

After the completion of the terminal examination (Odd Semester), the on-campus theory and lab classes of the Pharm.D. program have commenced for the Even Semester following the necessary COVID precautions.

New Instruments Installed in the Labs of BIPS

Some new instruments have been added in the Pharmacology Lab for under- and postgraduate students. The instruments include Rotarod Apparatus⁽¹⁾, Light and Dark Cage⁽²⁾, Elevated Plus Maze Apparatus⁽³⁾, and Tail Suspension Test Apparatus⁽⁴⁾. In addition, a SS tank of 100 liters for the manufacturing of liquid preparations has also been added in the Industrial Pharmacy Lab of BIPS.



Publications

1. Zuneera Akram, Aisha Noreen, Sadaf Ibrahim, Samina Sheikh, Maryam Inayat, Sobia Akhter, Usman Ghani Farooqi, Muzammil Hussain. Insulin therapy: Associated challenges in type 2 diabetes. *Annals of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology*. 2021;25(6):18000–18015.
2. Zuneera Akram, Rehana Perveen, Hasan Salman Siddiqi, Muzammil Hussain, Shahlla Imam, Hina Abrar, Syed Mohammad Mahmood. Pharmacological basis for the antihypertensive activity of *Grewia asiatica* fruit extract. *Pakistan Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences*. 2021;34(4):1429–1436.
3. Sadaf Ibrahim, Zuneera Akram, Samina Sheikh, Muzna Zafar, Nimra Khan, Asma Ejaj, Hira Khan. Overweight and obesity prevalence among adults and adolescents in Gulshan-e-Iqbal, Karachi, 2018–2020. *Annals of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology*. 2021;25(7):631–640.
4. Zuneera Akram, Rehana Perveen, Muzammil Hussain, Aisha Noreen, Anum Akram, Maryam Inayat, Sobia Akhter, Usman Ghani Farooqi. Determination of infectious diseases by polymerase chain reaction. *Baqai Journal of Health Sciences*. 2020;23(2):1–8 (back issue).
5. Syed Haider Abbas, Nafeesa Mustaan, Marium Fatima Khan, Rahila Bano, Zubair Anwar, Iqbal Ahmad. Methods of analysis of riboflavin. *Baqai Journal of Health Sciences*. 2020;23(1):1–7 (back issue).
6. Aisha Noreen, Zuneera Akram, Muzammil Hussain, Anum Akram, Maryam Inayat. Prevalence of Ramadan and fasting related diabetic complications among diabetic patients. *Baqai Journal of Health Sciences*. 2020;23(1):8–16 (back issue).
7. Kaneez Fatima, Shaukat Khalid, Hina Yasin, Hina Abrar, Rana Asif, Mobeen Islam, Iqbal Ahmed. Qualitative determination of herbal oils used in various herbal and cosmeceuticals formulation. *Baqai Journal of Health Sciences*. 2019;22(2):26–33 (back issue).
8. Iqbal Ahmad, Riaz Hussain Sheikh, Adeela Khurshid, Aqeela Khurshid, Zubair Anwar. Photolysis of ascorbic acid in aqueous solution: A kinetic study. *Baqai Journal of Health Sciences*. 2019;22(1):20–32 (back issue).