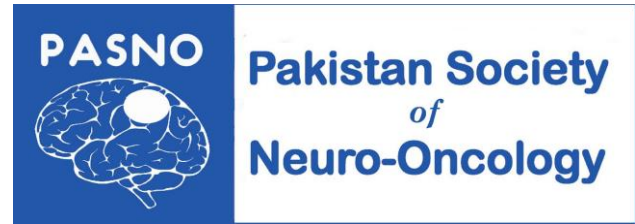


2nd Annual Neuro-Oncology Symposium

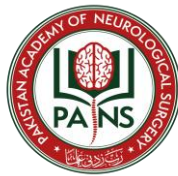
Organised by Pakistan Society of Neuro-Oncology (PASNO)

Friday to Sunday, September 3-5, 2021

Organised By



Collaboration Partners



About Speakers

International Speakers:



Oscar L. Alves is the Chairman of Neurosurgery at the Hospital Lusíadas Porto, Portugal as well as an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at the Lariboisière Hospital, Paris. After completing his M.D. from the University of Porto, Portugal, he was a Fulbright Fellow and a Postdoctoral fellow in Neurosurgery at the Medical College of Virginia, U.S.A. He serves as a Board Member of the Spine Committee, World Federation of Neurological Societies, and Treasurer and Executive Board Member of the Cervical Spine Research Society (CSRS) Europe.



James Balogun is a consultant neurosurgeon at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. Dr. Balogun completed his basic neurosurgical training at University College Hospital, Ibadan, and then went to Canada to pursue his clinical fellowships in surgical neuro-oncology and skull base surgery at the Toronto Western Hospital, as well as pediatric neurosurgery at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. He then spent time as a research fellow at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, U.S.A. His clinical and research expertise lie in the field of epidemiology, science and surgery of adult and pediatric brain tumors. He is the President of the Society for Neuro-Oncology Sub-Saharan Africa.



Luis Borba is a Professor and Chair of Neurosurgery, Federal University of Parana (UFPR), Curitiba, Brazil; Professor Honoris Causa Sechenov Medical School, Moscow, Russian Federation. Being a specialist in skull base surgery, Dr. Borba has also been an international speaker in 20 countries on skull base tumors. Dr. Borba graduated in Medicine from the Federal University of Pelotas in 1987. He received his Master in Neurosurgery from the Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP). Later, he received his Post-Graduate Degree in Skull Base Surgery from the University of Arkansas - U.S.A and doctor in Clinical Surgery from the University of São Paulo - USP-RP. Dr. Borba is a member of the World Academy of Neurosurgery, honorary member of the Uruguayan Society of Neurosurgery and of Tyumen Neurosurgery Association, Syberia, Russia and a member of the World Federation of Neurological Societies Skull Base Committee. He is also the president of the Brazilian Society of Neurosurgery - SBN Bienio -2019-2020.



Eric Bouffet is a leading pediatric neuro-oncologist in the world and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto, Canada, Garron Family Chair in Childhood Cancer Research, and Section Head of Neuro-oncology at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. He completed his medical school and training at the University of Lyon, France, after which he moved to the United Kingdom to practice as a consultant pediatric oncologist. He currently practices at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto. His research interests include low grade gliomas, medulloblastomas, and malignant pediatric brain tumors. He is a pioneer in developing novel therapeutic approaches to pediatric brain tumors.



Cleopatra Charalampaki is a Professor of Neurosurgery at Cologne Medical Center in Germany. Dr. Charalampaki specializes in minimal invasive neurosurgery, brain endoscopy, skull base surgery, glioma surgery, oncologic surgery, hydrocephalus treatment, and spinal tumor surgery. Dr. Charalampaki's research activities focus on the development, testing and implementing of new techniques like intraoperative use of confocal laser endomicroscopy, combined microscopic-spectroscopic use, and introduction of new fluorescent dyes in neurosurgery in combination with technological developments of new operating microscopes. In 2014, Dr Charalampaki received the Mahaley clinical research award from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and Central Nervous System section on tumors sponsored by the National Brain Tumor Society in Boston, USA for her advances in confocal laser endomicroscopy in brain tumor surgery. She has authored more than 40 international peer reviewed journal papers in the field of neurosurgery, neuroscience, optic and laser technologies and photonics and has held over 230 lectures in international conferences.



Luis Eduardo Carelli graduated in Medicine from the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO). He completed his medical residency in Orthopedics and Traumatology at the National Institute of Orthopedics and Traumatology (INTO) followed by specialization in Spinal Surgery (INTO). He then completed his Masters in Medicine in the area of Orthopedics and Traumatology at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ). Dr. Carelli's experience lies in the field of Medicine, with an emphasis on Clinic and Surgery of high complexity of the spine.



Susan Chang has a major focus in research on the development of novel therapies for patients, as well as the assessment of novel imaging markers of prognosis and response to therapy. She has served as the principal investigator on numerous clinical trials and is a leader on multi-programmatic grants that address the integration of physiologic and metabolic imaging with tissue biomarkers to optimize the management of glioma patients. She is the director of the Glioblastoma Precision Medicine Program aimed at leveraging the molecular and cytogenetic characteristics of glioblastoma to develop new treatments. Dr. Chang has also created novel clinical programs such as the Gordon Murray Neuro-Oncology Caregiver program and the Sheri Sobrato Brisson Brain Tumor Survivorship Program. Both programs were developed to enhance the care of patients and their families.



M. Omar Chohan graduated from Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan in 2002. He spent the next 5 years at the New York State Institute for Basic Research, initially as a postdoctoral fellow and then as a research scientist in the Neurochemistry and Neuroimmunology lab. He was awarded “World Association of Alzheimer’s Disease Scientists Award” (WAADS) in 2005 for his work on small molecule development to enhance neurogenesis. Dr. Chohan started neurosurgery residency at University of New Mexico in 2008 and graduated with the “best resident leadership award”. In 2015, he completed his fellowship training in Neurosurgical Oncology at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center/Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, U.S.A. in 2015. In 2020, he joined the University of Mississippi Medical Center with joint appointments in Neurosurgery, Neurology and Radiation Oncology.



Ana C. deCarvalho is an Associate Scientist and Director of the Live Biobank at the Hermelin Brain Tumor Center (HBTC), Henry Ford Hospital (Detroit, MI), and an Associate Adjunct Professor in the Cancer Biology and Pharmacology programs at the School of Medicine, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. She has a PhD in Biology from Florida State University and postdoctoral training in developmental neurobiology and brain tumors. Her team has developed a robust pre-clinical experimental therapeutic program for high grade gliomas based on patient-derived models. Her current research interests include validating therapeutic targets in patient-specific genomic contexts, and developing novel combination therapy strategies to overcome resistance in high grade gliomas.



Hugues Duffau is a Professor and Chairman of the Neurosurgery Department in the Montpellier University Medical Center, France, and the Head of the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM) 1191 Team; "Plasticity of the central nervous system, human stem cells and glial tumors" at the Institute of Functional Genomics, University of Montpellier. He is an expert at awake cognitive surgery for slow-growing brain tumors. For his innovative work in neurosurgery and neurosciences, he was awarded Doctor Honoris Causa several times, and he is the youngest recipient of the prestigious Herbert Olivecrona Award from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. His research interests include brain connectomics, neuroplasticity and cognitive neurosurgery. He has authored four textbooks and over 435 publications in international journals ranging from neurosurgery to fundamental neurosciences, for a total of more than 23,500 citations and with an h-index of 99.



Andres Ramos-Fresnedo is currently working as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Mayo Clinic at Jacksonville, Florida, United States. He is a medical graduate from the Anahuac University in Mexico City, Mexico, from the Class of 2019. He joined Dr. Quiñones-Hinojos's team in 2016 for a rotation at the Johns Hopkins Hospital while still a medical student. He then returned in 2018 to spend six months as a research trainee at the neurosurgery department at Mayo Clinic in Florida. Dr. Fresnedo has extensive research experience and actively participates in the writing and publication of scientific articles and outreach talks in neurosurgery. His topics of interest in research include trans sphenoidal surgeries, glioblastoma, and epilepsy, among others.



Karsten Geletneky is Director of the Clinic for Neurosurgery at the Darmstadt Clinic, where his medical focus is primarily on complex brain tumor operations and in the field of pituitary surgery. In addition, Dr. Geletneky has been working closely with the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg in the field of tumor virology. He is particularly involved in the development of immunotherapeutic methods with parvoviruses in brain tumor diseases.



Ahmed Gilani is an Assistant Professor of Neuropathology at the University of Colorado Denver - Anschutz Medical Campus, Colorado, U.S.A.. Dr. Gilani graduated from the Aga Khan University in 2004, after which he pursued a Master's degree in biological sciences and completed a PhD in Neurobiology from Columbia University. He trained at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai for his residency in neuropathology and at the University of Colorado Denver for pediatric pathology. Dr. Gilani has over 22 publications, 88 citations, and has made a lasting impact on genetic analysis and targeting in tumors.



Ziya L. Gokaslan is the Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Rhode Island, U.S.A.. He serves as the Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at Rhode Island Hospital and The Miriam Hospital. Dr. Gokaslan is also the Clinical Director of the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute. He leads the Norman Prince Spine Institute at Lifespan, Rhode Island Hospital and is the Director of the Complex Spinal Surgery Fellowship at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. Dr. Gokaslan earned his medical degree from the University of Istanbul in Turkey. He completed an internship in general surgery, a fellowship in neurotraumatology, a residency in neurosurgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and a fellowship in clinical spinal surgery at New York University Medical Center, U.S.A.. Dr. Gokaslan established a Spinal Oncology Program and became its first Director and Deputy Chair in the Department of Neurosurgery.



Anita Granero is the Founder/President of the charities "OSCAR'S ANGELS" and OSCAR'S ANGELS Italia" whose main objective is to train specialized volunteers to provide care and support in the hospital to the families of children and teenagers with brain and spinal cord tumors, severe neurological problems and to those in palliative care. Their highly trained non-medical volunteers are part of the hospital teams where they represent the families, bring a different perspective to their care and help healthcare staff to better understand the emotional stress and needs of the families.



Tejpal Gupta is the Professor and Officer-in-Charge of Radiation Oncology Unit, Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI); Epidemiology and Clinical Trials Unit; and Convener of Neuro-Oncology Disease Management Group, Advanced Centre for Treatment Research and Education in Cancer (ACTREC) and Tata Memorial Centre, Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, Indian. Dr. Gupta received the International Education Camp; Development Award of ASCO (American Society of Clinical Oncology) in 2006 and Puranik Camp; Pradhan International (Overseas) Fellowship of Association of the Radiation Oncologists of India (AROI) in 2007. He is the member of several prestigious oncology societies, such as AROI, Indian Society of Neuro-Oncology (ISNO), Indian Association of Cancer Research (LACR), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and more.



Constantinos G. Hadjipanayis is the Professor and Site Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Mount Sinai Downtown Union Square in New York City, New York. He is also Director of Neurosurgical Oncology for the Mount Sinai Health System and Director of the Brain Tumor Nanotechnology Laboratory in the Tisch Cancer Institute. Both as a neurosurgeon and an NIH-funded scientist, Dr. Hadjipanayis is recognized as a neuro-oncology pioneer for driving advancements in the therapy and surgical management of brain tumors. He is also an internationally recognized expert in minimally invasive, neuro-endoscopic procedures to treat disorders in the brain. In addition to his clinical interests, Dr. Hadjipanayis leads multiple cooperative group- and industry sponsored clinical trials for patients with malignant brain tumors. He was the first in North America to perform approved fluorescence-guided surgery for malignant gliomas with the use of an orphan drug known as Gliolan that can light up tumors in the operating room. He is the lead principal investigator and an Investigational New Drug (IND) holder for Gliolan in the USA. He completed a unique animal trial of brain tumors using a magnetic nanoparticle therapeutic agent developed in his laboratory that can target brain tumor cells and can also be seen by MRI.



Sanford P.C. Hsu is the attending physician at the Neurological Institute, Taipei Veterans General Hospital in Taiwan. He is also an Associate Professor at National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan. Dr. Hsu completed his residency in Neurosurgery, Taipei Veterans General Hospital, Taiwan and research fellowship in Neurosurgery, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Little Rock, Arkansas, U.S.A. He has extensive experience in research including publications on risk of stroke and outcome in epilepsy patients, the outcomes of patients with isolated amygdala lesion and Impact of extent of acoustic meatus tumor.



Rakesh Jalali is a Professor of Radiation Oncology, Senior Neuro Oncologist and the Medical Director at Apollo Proton Cancer Centre, Chennai, India. Dr. Jalali is a member of the Senior Advisory Council of the Indian Society of Neuro Oncology (ISNO) and also the founder of Brain Tumor Foundation of India, an internationally recognized charity organization dedicated to the welfare of the patients with brain tumors and their families. Dr. Jalali has over 300 peer reviewed publications with emphasis in the fields of cancer treatment, enhancing quality of life for cancer patients and developing appropriate research models. He was awarded the Best Oncologist Award by Medscape in 2014 and has received the Top Radiation Oncologist Award for 3 consecutive years from 2014 onwards.



Seok Gu Kang is a Professor of Neurosurgery at Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea and the Vice Chair of Scientific Committee, Organizing Committee of the World Federation of Neuro-Oncology Societies (WFNOS) 2021, Seoul, Korea. He completed his neurosurgery residency training from St. Mary's Hospital, The Catholic University of Korea College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea. He completed fellowships in Brain Tumor Section and Pediatric Neurosurgery from the Samsung Medical Centre, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Seoul, Korea from 2003 to 2005. He worked as a Postdoctoral fellow from 2007 to 2009 at the Brain Tumor Centre, M. D. Anderson Cancer Centre, Houston, Texas, USA. His field of interest is Surgical Neuro Oncology and Translational Research about Glioblastoma (especially in cells of origin in subventricular zone).



Melissa Lim is the Founder and President of Brain Tumor Society (Singapore), also known as B.T.S.S.. A former brain tumor patient, and a caregiver to her late mother diagnosed with GBM. Melissa established B.T.S.S. in 2014 to connect brain tumor patients, survivors and caregivers in Singapore and build a supportive and caring community. B.T.S.S. is the only non-profit organization serving the brain tumor community in Singapore. B.T.S.S. was conferred the Singapore Health Inspirational Patient Group Award in 2020.



Ian Y. Lee is an American Board certified Neurosurgeon who is affiliated with multiple hospitals including Henry Ford Hospital and Henry Ford Wyandotte Hospital, U.S.A.. He received his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine and has been in practice for nearly 2 decades. He completed his residency and internship at Henry Ford Hospital, Neurosurgery, Michigan, U.S.A in 2010 and 2004 respectively. He then went on to complete his fellowship at MD Anderson Cancer Center, Texas, U.S.A. in 2011. He is currently the Co-director at Hermelin Brain Tumor Center, Neurosurgery, Henry Ford Cancer Institute. Dr. Lee specializes in Brain & Spinal Tumor, Neurosurgical Spine Surgery and Pituitary Surgery with clinical interests in brain and spinal tumor resections, laser ablations for brain and spinal tumors, awake craniotomy for speech/motor mapping for tumor surgeries. He is on a team that has one of the largest experiences with brain tumor laser ablation and only one of 2 sites in the world doing spinal ablations.



Linda M. Liau is an American neurosurgeon, neuroscientist, and the W. Eugene Stern Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), U.S.A. making her the second woman in the United States, and the first Asian American woman to chair an academic neurosurgical department. She received her medical degree from Stanford University School of Medicine and has been in practice for more than 20 years. Dr. Liau's clinical expertise is in intra-operative functional brain mapping and use of intraoperative imaging for resection of brain tumors (gliomas, meningiomas, and metastatic tumors). Her research efforts are focused on the molecular biology of brain tumors, gene therapy, immunotherapy, and brain cancer vaccines. Dr. Liau is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Neuro-Oncology.



Zarnie Lwin is an Associate Professor with the University of Queensland and Senior Staff Specialist Medical Oncologist from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. She completed a two-year research fellowship at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto, Canada, in the fields of Neuro Oncology, Health Services Research and Thoracic Oncology. She has held national leadership roles including Vice-Chair and Treasurer of the Medical Oncology Group of Australia, and is the current Chair of the Co-operative Trials Group for Neuro Oncology (COGNO) International Collaborative Research Subcommittee. She has a particular research interest in improving outcomes for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities, Health Services Research, Workforce studies and Survivorship. She has convened multiple scientific conferences, and has won awards for her Original Research in Societal Research. Dr. Lwin is the executive editor for Neuro Oncology Practice, Co-Chair of Society of Neuro Oncology (SNO) International Outreach Committee, and a core member of the Asian Society for Neuro Oncology (ASNO) Reform Task Force.



Fernando Martinez is the Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the Clinical Hospital Dr. Manuel Quintela, Montevideo, Uruguay and the Professor and Chairman of the Anatomy Department at Universidad CLAEH, Maldonado, Uruguay. He is the Vice President of the World Federation of Neurological Societies (WFNS) Peripheral Nerve Surgery Committee, Member of the Surgical Anatomy Committee of WFNS, President of the Neuro-oncology Committee of the Latin American Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (FLANC), and Past President of the Uruguayan Society of Neurosurgery. He set up internships and surgical training at: Neurosurgery Service, São Paulo School of Medicine, Brazil; Neurosurgery Service, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sol (PUCRS), Porto Alegre, Brazil; Peripheral Nerve Surgery Unit, Faculty of Medicine of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina; Neurosurgery Service, Portuguese Charity, São Paulo, Brazil; Upper Limb and Peripheral Nerves Surgery Unit, La Paz University Hospital, Madrid, Spain, Guy Chauliac Hospital, Montpellier, France. He was President of the V Uruguayan Congress of Neurosurgery. Dr. Martinez's areas of interest are Peripheral Nerve Surgery, Microneurosurgery (Tumors), Neuroanatomy and Surgical and radiological anatomy.



Aliasgar V. Moiyadi completed his neurosurgical training from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore; a premier neuroscience training institute in India. He was instrumental in establishing the Neurosurgical Oncology services at Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), one of the few neurosurgical departments in India catering to neuro-oncology exclusively. His areas of interest include novel strategies for improving visualization and resection of gliomas particularly use of navigation ultrasound and optical imaging -in which he has pioneered in the country, - intraoperative brain mapping including awake surgeries, minimally invasive neurosurgery, skull base surgery and biology of malignant brain tumors. He has over 150 peer reviewed publications and is on the editorial board of many neurosurgical journals, along with being the Tumor Section Editor for *World Neurosurgery*, one of the leading neurosurgical journals. He is a member of the World Federation of Neurosurgical Societies (WFNS) - Technology committee and on the Executive committee of the Indian Society of Neuro-oncology. He is also involved in many clinical trials & translational research projects with collaborators within & outside of TMC in India.



Kristie Naines has worked in the non-profit and healthcare sectors with the desire to serve the community. Her experience with a rare cancer diagnosis has turned into a passion for helping others with the disease. She has spent many years at Mayo Clinic connecting with patients on a personal level and helping to inspire others to advance research and excellence in patient care. As the Executive Director of Brain Tumor Network since April 2019, Kristie's vision is to provide the best navigation experience with compassion while strategically evolving to reach more patients and caregivers.



George Samandouras is a consultant neurosurgeon at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. Dr. Samandouras has been trained at Oxford at the Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust and completed a fellowship in Paris in 2008. Dr. Samandouras runs the world's foremost course on brain tumor surgery attended by international senior neurosurgeons, professors of Neurosurgery and department chiefs. Dr. Samandouras currently directs the education and training of Neurosurgical trainees & fellows at Queen's Square. A significant part of his practice includes second opinions for challenging or "inoperable" tumors. He also has an interest in cranial endoscopy & spinal surgery.



Farshad Nassiri is working at the University of Toronto, Canada. Dr. Nassiri received his BSc and MD from the University of Toronto, where he was the recipient of the Golden Stethoscope Award. Following medical school, Farshad entered neurosurgical residency at the University of Toronto in 2014. He is now completing his PhD at the University of Toronto in brain tumor biology while completing his residency. He is the recipient of the prestigious Vanier Scholarship of Canada and his research interests include identifying biomarkers of aggressiveness in brain tumors and developing clinical molecular models that accurately predict disease phenotype. He has received a number of awards for his research including: the SNO Adult Basic Research Award, Canadian Neuro-Oncology Young Investigator Award, and the KG McKenzie Memorial Prize for Basic Research. Dr. Nassiri also serves as the inaugural Communicating Editor for Neuro-Oncology Advances.



Ryo Nishikawa graduated from the University of Tokyo in 1980, received his MD in 1980, and passed the Exam of Specialty Board of Neurological Surgery in 1986. Then he received his title, Doctor of Medical Science, from the University of Tokyo in 1992. After training as a neurosurgeon, he went to the United States in 1992 as a postdoctoral fellow at the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, San Diego to work with Dr. Su Huang and Dr. Webster Cavenee. In 1995, he came back to Japan and started working at the Saitama Medical University. From 2007, he has been working there as the Professor and Chair of the Department of Neuro-Oncology/Neurosurgery.



Nitin Garg is a Consultant Neurosurgeon and Minimal Access Spine Surgeon. He is also the founding director of the Brain Tumor Support Group (BTSG) and Awareness Foundation India. BTSG is a not-for-profit organization with the aim to provide psycho-social support to Brain Tumor patients and their care givers and it was established in 2019 at Bhopal in Central India. It is the first of its kind entity in India in the non-public sector setting. Various aspects like patient support group, monthly support group meeting, arranging for financial needs and special tests are addressed at BTSG.



Kathy Oliver is Chair and a Founding Co-Director of the International Brain Tumor Alliance (IBTA), a global network established in 2005 as a dynamic worldwide community for brain tumor patient organizations and others involved in neuro-oncology. Kathy lives in Tadworth, Surrey, United Kingdom. On behalf of the IBTA, Kathy campaigns for equitable access to brain tumor therapies; promotes the establishment of brain tumor patient/caregiver support groups in countries where they don't yet exist and raises awareness of the challenges of this devastating disease. She is involved in cancer patient rights-based advocacy and is a co-author of The European Cancer Patient's Bill of Rights (2014) and The Brain Tumor Patients' Charter of Rights launched in July 2020.



Vinay Puduvalli is the Professor and Chairman of Department of Neuro-Oncology at UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA. He is an internationally known expert in the treatment and research of neurological malignancies and leads a comprehensive effort in the Department of Neurological Surgery to develop novel therapies against brain tumors and to study resistance mechanisms to targeted therapies against malignant gliomas through epigenetic regulators and bypass pathways involved in resistance. His research interests include targeting novel pathway hubs that govern treatment resistance, including the PAK4- mediated signaling pathway and Hsp90 and HDAC inhibitors, as well as targeting the NAD metabolic pathways. On the clinical research side, he leads and collaborates in national multicenter trials examining clinical efficacy of novel drug combinations against malignant brain tumors. Ongoing projects include: targeting the heat shock response using Hsp90 inhibitors to overcome resistance to chemotherapy and radiation therapy; characterizing chromatin modification and the role of HDAC in stemness and drug resistance; and targeting energy metabolism pathways specific to gliomas to overcome treatment resistance. Dr. Puduvalli has also led national multicenter trials examining synergistic interaction and clinical efficacy of combination therapies in an adaptive randomized phase II trial with correlative studies.



Shaan M Raza is a faculty member in the Department of Neurosurgery at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. His clinical interests include the surgical management of skull base and pituitary tumors using open, endoscopic and minimally-invasive techniques. Dr. Raza received his medical degree from The Johns Hopkins University. He subsequently completed his residency in Neurosurgery at The Johns Hopkins Hospital during which he also completed a two year NIH-funded clinical and research fellowship in neurosurgical Oncology. Additionally, Dr. Raza has completed fellowships in skull base surgery at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and endoscopic endonasal skull base surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar – New York–Presbyterian Hospital. He is from a handful of surgeons in the country with fellowship training in the full spectrum of surgical techniques for the management of benign and malignant skull base tumors in addition to general brain tumors. Dr. Raza is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2014 Resident Clinical Research Award from the North American Skull Base Society. He is an active clinician – researcher with his academic efforts focused on skull base pathology, brain tumors and surgical outcomes. He has published nearly fifty publications, written seventeen book chapters, and edited one neurosurgical textbook. He also currently serves as Co-Chair of the Research Committee for the North American Skull Base Society.



Diego Méndez Rosito is the Director of the Skull Base Course and Head of the Hypophysis Clinic at the CMN November 20 of the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Workers (ISSSTE) in Mexico City. He completed his residency at the National Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery. He was awarded a scholarship in Little Rock, Arkansas. He is a specialist in skull base tumors. It shares the 360° philosophy in the approach to pathology, using endoscopy or open microsurgery depending on the needs of each individual person. In the case of complex tumors, Dr. Méndez recommends the extradural approach to the skull base. He is an active member of the NASBS, the International Meningioma Society, & the SMNC. He is also the President of the Skull Base Chapter in the Latin American Federation of Neurosurgery Societies.



Nader Sanai is the Professor of Neurological Surgery and also holds the Francis & Dionne Najafi Chair in Neurosurgical Oncology at Barrow Neurological Institute. As an internationally recognized brain tumor surgeon, his specialty clinical practice is devoted entirely to patients with benign and malignant brain tumors, particularly those in high-risk areas. He is a world expert in using brain mapping techniques to identify and preserve areas of motor, sensory, and language function during surgery. As one of the nation's highest volume neurosurgical oncologists, Dr. Sanai was elected, in 2016, as the youngest member of the American Academy of Neurological Surgeons, the most respected academic organization in neurosurgery. Dr. Sanai is the principal architect of the Ivy Center's highly-innovative and world-renowned Phase 0 clinical trials program. Together with a multidisciplinary team of scientists, clinicians, and nurses, Dr. Sanai specializes in identifying new, first-in-class therapeutic agents that match the individual biology of brain tumor patients. The Ivy Center's precision medicine program is the first of its kind in neuro oncology and reflects Dr. Sanai's commitment to pushing the envelope for brain tumor patients around the world.



Keki Edulji Turel is Consultant at the Department of Neurosurgery in Bombay Hospital & Medical Research Centre, Mumbai, India. Dr. Keki Edulji Turel has over 47 years of vast experience in the field of neurosurgery. His educational qualification includes MBBS, MS in Neurosurgery, FICS, FABCNS, FAIS, FICG, FRCS, FACS and FIMSA.



Muhammad Waqas graduated from the Aga Khan University Neurosurgery Residency program in 2017. He passed FCPS exam in the same year. He is currently working as a clinical Neuroendovascular fellow at University at Buffalo, State University of New York. Dr. Waqas have authored over 140 papers, and have contributed to over a dozen book chapters. He is a peer reviewer for several international journals and has given several presentations at national and international platforms.



Ibrahim A. Sbeih is a Jordanian Neurosurgeon and currently the Chairman of the Neurosurgical Department, Farah Medical Campus, since January 2017. He did his undergraduate degree from the University of Alexandria, Egypt and then went on to do his postgraduate from the Royal College of Surgeons, UK FRCS(ED) SN. He has served as the President of the Jordanian Neurosciences society and the Pan Arab Neurosurgical Society respectively. He also served as Second Vice President of WFNS. He is a member of Skull Base Surgery Committee WFNS for the last 22 years. He is the pioneer of skull-based surgery in Jordan and the Middle East having performed the first trans nasal approach for pituitary adenoma in 1985. He established the first cadaveric lab in Jordan/Middle East in 2015. His research interests are numerous including skull base tumors and he has published over 50 scientific papers. He is on the consultative board of 7 neurosurgical journals, including Neurosurgery and World of Neurosurgery.



Kumar Somasundaram is a cancer biologist and professor at the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). His work is centered around the studies of tumor suppressor genes, gliomas and microRNAs. He demonstrated the role of macrophage colony stimulating factor (M-CSF) in tumor angiogenesis and proposed the process of befriending, a phenomenon whereby the M-CSF interacted with the anti-tumor microglial cells of the human body, inducing them to produce Insulin-like growth factor-binding protein 1 (IGFBP1), thus impairing the capacity of microglial cells to eliminate tumor cells. The discovery of IGFBP1 and its role in glioma angiogenesis was validated by a multi-center research team co-led by Dr. Somasundaram. They also proposed a new therapeutic protocol for glioblastoma which targeted IGFBP1. Currently his work focuses on microRNA, DNA methylation, modifications of chromatin and gene fusions for the development of cancer biomarkers. He was elected a fellow of both the Indian Academy of Sciences in 2007 and The National Academy of Sciences, India, in 2007. In 2009, he was elected to fellowship by the Indian National Science Academy.



Komal Syed is the founder, Brain Tumor Foundation of Pakistan. Komal was a caregiver to her late husband who battled a GBM and succumbed to the disease in 2015. Since then Komal has been working to set up a non-medical support foundation for Brain Tumor patients & families in Pakistan to make their journey easier than it was for her and her husband. The Brain Tumor Foundation of Pakistan is the only such non-medical organization in Pakistan that focuses on raising awareness; providing access to information & non-medical support; offering resources to patients, caregivers and their families. Komal currently works as a Senior Program Manager with Amazon, Canada.



Patrick Y. Wen is a Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and the Director of the Center for Neuro-Oncology and Institute Physician at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston, MA. He is the immediate Past President of the Society for Neuro-Oncology and former Editor-In-Chief of Neuro-Oncology. Dr. Wen graduated from the Medical College of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, University of London, in 1981. He completed his internal medicine training at the University of London postgraduate hospitals and his neurology residency in the Harvard-Longwood Neurology Training Program. He is board certified in Neurology and Neuro-Oncology. He has extensive research experience in the development of novel therapies for brain tumors. In addition, he is part of the Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology Executive Committee that has helped develop response assessment, trial endpoints and designs for many types of brain tumors.



Jinsong Wu is Professor, Glioma Surgery Division, Neurosurgery Department of Huashan Hospital, Shanghai Medical College, Fudan University, Shanghai. Dr Wu has been established as an academic leader in Chinese neurosurgery with numerous high quality contributions to glioma surgery in eloquent parts of the brain. He developed his own novel integrated technical system for multimodal brain mapping strategies and established a Chinese language cortical distribution atlas. He has been a principle investigator of numerous projects and has been awarded distinctions by the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, The Journal of Neuro-oncology, the Shanghai Government and the Chinese Neurosurgical Association. He will be demonstrating awake craniotomy techniques, with technologies he devised himself, on a 3T iMRI.



Gelareh Zadeh is Dan Family Chair and Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto. She is Head of the Department of Neurosurgery at Toronto Western Hospital and Co-Director for the Krembil Brain Institute at University Health Network. Dr. Zadeh is a Senior Scientist at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre where she runs a translational research program at MacFeeters-Hamilton Neuro-oncology Program and holds the Wilkins Family Brain Tumor Research Chair. Dr. Zadeh has a dedicated neuro-oncology and skull base practice, which includes a number of multidisciplinary specialized programs including a skull base clinic, brain metastases, pituitary clinic, and neurofibromatosis clinics. In parallel, she has an active research laboratory focusing on integrated multi-platform molecular analysis of brain tumors, together with a focus on understanding molecular response to targeted therapies, such as anti-angiogenesis and metabolic inhibitors. She is also involved in a number of national and international organizations. She is the President of Society of Neuro-Oncology (SNO), and the past Chair of Neuro-oncology Committee at the World Federation of Neurological Surgeons, she is the Co-Chair and founder of the International Consortium on Meningiomas (ICOM). She is the Editor-in-Chief of Neuro Oncology Advances, open access journal of SNO and EANO.



Syed Nabeel Zafar is the Assistant Professor of Surgery at University of Wisconsin-Madison. After earning a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from the Aga Khan University Medical College and a Master of Public Health from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts, he completed a general surgery residency at Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC, and a fellowship in advanced GI and minimally invasive surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland. Most recently, he completed a clinical fellowship in complex general surgical oncology at MD Anderson Cancer Center. His clinical focus is in gastrointestinal malignancies especially laparoscopic and robotic approaches to cancer surgery. Dr. Zafar specializes in malignant disease of the pancreas, liver, gallbladder, biliary tree, stomach, small intestine, neuroendocrine tumors, gastrointestinal stromal tumors, retroperitoneal sarcoma and in peritoneal surface malignancies including cytoreductive surgery and HIPEC procedures.

National Speakers:



Faisal Sultan is the Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on National Health Services and has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Pakistan from 2003 to 2020. Dr. Sultan also has the distinction of serving as the Prime Minister's focal person on COVID-19, Chairman of the Board of Governors at Khyber Teaching Hospital, Peshawar, and a member of the steering committee for the Punjab Health Strategic Plan. Dr. Sultan graduated from the King Edward Medical College in Pakistan and subsequently trained in the United States in internal medicine at the University of Connecticut (1989-92) and in infectious disease at Washington University School of Medicine (1992-1995). He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh, UK in 2007 and a Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Pakistan (Infectious Diseases) in 2010.



Assad Hafeez is the former DG Ministry of Health Islamabad, he is also the former Vice Chancellor Health Services Academy, Islamabad. Dr. Hafeez is a leading public health specialist and Paediatrician with over 30 years of extensive clinical and management experience. Dr Hafeez has held a number of clinical, senior management and academic posts in national and international institutions. He has over 100 publications in peer reviewed journals. He is an expert researcher and has completed a number of research grants as Principal Investigator. He has played a significant role as federal DG in turning around the EPI situation at federal level in Pakistan during his tenure by overseeing a revamping of the entire logistics/storage functions of the programme as well as giving strategic guidance in operations at a macro level. Hafeez is a medical graduate with post-graduate studies in paediatrics. He holds a Fellowship of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Pakistan and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, London. He also has obtained a Masters in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and a PhD in Public Health from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom.



Adil H. Haider is the Dean of Aga Khan University Medical College and Professor of Surgery and Community Health Sciences. He is the first alumnus of AKU's MBBS program to have this honor. He holds a Master's degree in Public Health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where he trained as a Trauma Surgeon and served as faculty for several years. Previously, Dr. Haider was the Kessler Director of the Center for Surgery and Public Health—a joint initiative of Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH), Harvard Medical School and Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. He has mentored over 150 research trainees, published over 350 peer-reviewed papers and served as Principal Investigator (PI) on extramural grants worth more than twenty million dollars. He is the recipient of several awards, including the Ellis Island Medal of Honor (2017), one of the most prestigious honors for civilians in the United States for his contributions towards mitigating race and socioeconomic disparities in healthcare. Dr. Haider has been one of the national leaders responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with co-leading the Academic Medical Centre, he has worked towards forming public private partnerships with the Government of Pakistan to ensure quality care through various modalities such as telemedicine and online educational offerings for building capacity and safety protocols for healthcare workers.



Syed Ather Enam is a US Board certified Neurosurgeon and a Professor and the Chair of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery at the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan. He has Specialist Certification in Neurosurgery from Canada, an FRCS from Canada, an FRCS from Ireland, an FRCS from Glasgow and a Fellowship of American College of Surgeons. He has been awarded several accolades and honors for his work both in the USA and in Pakistan, including Physician of the year medallion, Master Surgeon Award, Excellence in Neurosurgery Award and the presidential award, Sitara-e-Imtiaz. Dr. Enam has a strong interest in basic science research with a PhD in Neuroscience from Northwestern University, USA. He is a life member of Sigma Xi, a scientific research honor society, as well as the Founding President of Pakistan Society of Basic and Applied Neuroscience (PASBAN), the Founding President of Pakistan Society of Neuro-Oncology (PASNO), a member of the Executive Committee of AANS-CNS Section of Brain Tumors (USA), and a member of the Advisory Board of the Science Bridge. He has been an editor of several scientific journals and has delivered numerous lectures across the world on Neurosurgery, Neuro-Oncology and Neuroscience topics. He is currently a PhD supervisor for the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. He is actively involved in many clinical and basic science research projects and has authored more than 100 manuscripts and articles.



Naqib Ullah Achakzai is currently the President of Pakistan Society of Neurosurgery (PSN). Dr. Achakzai received his basic education from Karachi. He graduated with MBBS from Bolan Medical College, Quetta in 1993 securing 1st position. He did fellowship and FCPS (Neurosurgery) in 1999. He also acquired FRCS from Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Glasgow-UK. He has obtained Gold Medal for securing 1st position in MBBS Final Exam, Gold Medal for being the best graduate, and Quaid-e-Azam Merit Scholarship for being 1st in Science faculty of UOB. Currently, he is a Professor and the Head of the Department of Neurosurgery, Bolan Medical College, Quetta and a Consultant Neurosurgeon, at Sandeman (Prov.) Teaching Hospital, Quetta.



Sameen Siddiqi is a Professor and Chair of Community Health Sciences at AKU, and has been appointed as a senior adviser to the federal health minister's high-level core team which seeks to expand access to quality health services across the country. Dr. Siddiqi served as a senior health specialist in the World Bank, Islamabad, in 2002 and provided technical assistance to the government of Pakistan in the execution of the health component of the Social Action Program. Between 1994 and 2000, at the Health Services Academy, Islamabad, he was instrumental in developing the first-ever master's in public health program in the public sector. He also briefly served as chief planning officer at Pakistan's Ministry of Health. Dr. Siddiqi has a masters and fellowship in public health from the UK, a doctorate in medicine from Germany and a fellowship in internal medicine from Pakistan. He has multiple publications and has written several policy papers that have influenced health reforms in countries of the Eastern Mediterranean Region.



Ahmed Ali Shah is a visiting Professor at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. Dr Shah graduated from Dow Medical College and trained as a Neurosurgeon at the Guys, Maudsley and Kings College Hospitals in London. Dr. Shah returned to Pakistan in 1986 and established a Neurosurgery Department at the Dow medical College, where he served for 18 years. He was also the President of the Pakistan Society of Neurosurgeons & Dean of Neurosurgery of College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan



Asad Ali is the Associate Dean of Research at the AKU Medical College, Pakistan, and The Noordin Noormahomed Sheriff Endowed Chair, a Professor at the Department of Pediatrics & Child Health. He is an alumnus of AKU Medical College & obtained his advanced clinical training in Pediatrics at Duke University, and a Fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and Masters in Public Health at Vanderbilt University, USA. His research interests pertain broadly to pediatric public health of developing countries, especially infectious diseases, vaccines, and childhood malnutrition in Pakistan & the region. He has received funding from institutions like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, NIH USA, and CDC USA to address these problems using cutting-edge scientific approaches. He chairs the National Committee to monitor adverse events following immunization in Pakistan. He is also a member of the National Immunization Technical Advisory Group, & the President of AKU Medical College Alumni Association, Asia chapter.



Asad Latif is a graduate of the AKU class of 2001. He is currently the Chair of Department of Anesthesiology and Chief of the Anesthesiology Service Line at AKU. Dr. Latif has built a successful career as an active clinician, a public health scientist and an academician. He has held a series of key positions at Johns Hopkins University and is also part of the G4 Alliance which is committed to increasing access to safe, essential and timely surgical, obstetric, trauma and anesthesia care. As an accomplished researcher, Dr Latif's work focuses on patient safety and quality improvement with an emphasis on preventing hospital-acquired infections and improving health systems, particularly in developing countries. Besides having several publications and grant-funded projects to his credit, Dr Latif has also led projects to enhance the safety of patients in Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia.



Asif Bashir is an American-board certified Neurosurgeon. Dr. Bashir received his medical degree from Pakistan's prestigious King Edward Medical College in 1995. He completed residency in neurosurgery at the SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY, USA in 2007 and further proceeded to complete fellowships in complex spine surgery (SUNY Upstate Medical University), Syracuse and stereotactic and functional neurosurgery (Mayo Clinic, Rochester). He was the Professor of Neurosurgery at the Seton Hall University School of Health & Medical Sciences, New Jersey in 2017. Afterwards, he returned to Pakistan and currently is heading the Punjab Institute of Neuroscience in Lahore as a Professor of Neurosurgery. He is considered an expert in the field of minimally invasive neurosurgery (brain and spine).



Imtiaz Hashmi is a consultant orthopedic surgeon, working as a visiting consultant and lecturer at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. He is also an Associate Professor at Ziauddin Medical University Hospital, Karachi and consultant orthopedic surgeon at the St. James Hospital, Dublin, Ireland. Dr. Hashmi did his MBBS from King Edward Medical College, Lahore, FRCS from Edinburg, Ireland and Fellowship in Spinal Surgery from Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham, UK. He is considered an expert in the field of Spine Tumors.



M. Shahzad Shamim is working as an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery, Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi. He is a consultant Neurosurgeon and Chief of Services for Neurosurgery, Neurology and Psychiatry where he is also the inaugural Director of Surgical Neuro-Oncology Fellowship Program, inaugural Director of Dean's Clinical Research Fellowship Program and Director of the Internship Program. With more than a hundred peer reviewed publications he is Pakistan's most published and cited neurosurgeon and has delivered numerous oral and poster presentations in national and international meetings. Dr Shamim is a reviewer for more than 20 journals and on the editorial board of five.



Rashid Jooma is a Visiting Professor of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. Dr. Jooma completed his MBBS from Dow Medical College, Karachi, and after his residency in Neurosurgery from Atkinson Morley's Hospital, London, UK, pursued a FRCS in Surgical Neurology from Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, UK. Dr. Jooma did Fellowship in Epilepsy Surgery from University of Cincinnati Hospital, USA. He was the former Director-General Health of Pakistan and he is National Co-coordinator of Primary Trauma Care program. Dr. Jooma is actively involved in many Traumatic Brain Injury projects.



Khalid Mahmood is intercollegiate board certified Neurosurgeon who got qualified and trained from UK. Dr. Mahmood is the pioneer Neurosurgeon of Pakistan for using cutting edge technology for deep brain stimulation, surgery of parkinsonian tremors, rigidity and dystonias in Pakistan. His other interests are endoscopic brain, skull base and spinal surgery, surgery for aneurysms and AVM, epilepsy surgery and complex spinal work. Currently, he is Professor of Neurosurgery and Executive Director of the Punjab Institute of Neurosciences which is the 500 bedded hospital exclusive to patients with neurological conditions and the largest institute of its kind in Pakistan.



Riaz Raja is a Professor of Neurosurgery at LUMHS, Jamshoro. He completed his FCPS degree in neurosurgery from the College of physicians and surgeons, Pakistan. His research mainly elaborates spinal injuries, back pain, decompression and management. Dr Riaz is also an active member of the Pakistan Society of Neurosurgeons Pakistan, Asian Congress of Neurological Surgeons (ACNS): No. 734, and World Federation of Neurological Societies



Sumera Butt is a Consultant Clinical Oncologist at Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital, Pakistan. She graduated from King Edward Medical University, Lahore in 2003. She then pursued her MRCP in the UK which she completed in 2008, followed by her FRCR in Clinical Oncology in 2014. Dr. Sumera Butt is a very proactive oncologist who likes to raise awareness about medical issues & uses writing as a main medium for this purpose.



Naureen Mushtaq is a Consultant Pediatric Neuro-Oncologist and Associate Professor of Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi. She completed her medical school from the Sindh Medical College, Karachi, after which she proceeded to complete Pediatrics residency and Pediatric Oncology fellowship from the Aga Khan University Hospital. She later completed a fellowship in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology from The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. Dr. Mushtaq is the only trained Pediatric Neuro-Oncologist in Pakistan and has used her experience to establish a Pediatric Neuro-Oncology multidisciplinary team at the Aga Khan University Hospital and also help eight other centers in Pakistan develop their own Pediatric Neuro Oncology capacities using a grant from the Sanofi Espoir Foundation. She is also credited for starting the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Fellowship Programme at the Aga Khan University Hospital. As a researcher, she takes keen interest in brain tumors.



Adnan Jabbar graduated from Dow Medical College, Karachi. He received his PhD in Immunology from Rush University, IL., completed residency at Nassau University Medical Center, NY followed by fellowship in Hematology and Medical Oncology from Winship at Emory University, Atlanta. He is presently working as an Associate Professor and Section Head of Medical Oncology at the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan.



Tazeen Ali obtained a post-doctoral degree in Health Policy & Equity and a Ph.D. in Medical Sciences from Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, and MSc Epidemiology and Post RN BScN from AKU, Karachi. She developed the Research unit at SONAM serving AKU nursing research and contributing to national-level nursing research. She has been President of the Executive Board of the NGO “Parwaz,” Ph.D. examiner for the Higher Education Commission, Board member for Task Force Nursing Network on Violence against Women International, Board member of Post Abortion Care National Assembly Pakistan, Executive Board Member for the Shirkat Gah, Non-Government Organization, member of the steering committee to develop Nursing leaders to take up the Sigma Theta Tau International role and member of Pakistan Nursing Inspection board. Her scholarly interests lie in Oncology, among many other research interests. She has over 130 publications in different national and international journals. So far, she has supervised more than 100 national and international graduate students.



Fatima Mubarak is an Associate Professor at the Aga Khan University, Karachi with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital & health care industry. She is skilled in MRI, clinical research, medical education, and advanced Neuro-imaging. She completed MCPS and FCPS and also a Neuro-imaging fellowship from Singapore General Hospital. She is the first International outreach member of American Society of Neuro-radiology from Pakistan and a member of Asia Oceania Regional Committee and the Quality improvement network of Radiological society of North America. She has authored over 100 publications on Neuroimaging of stroke, tumours, infections, trauma and dementia. She is a peer reviewer for several international and national journals and has given several presentations at national and international platforms. She has mentored over dozens of trainees within and outside Pakistan.



Ehsan Bari is an Associate Professor at the Aga Khan University Karachi. Having graduated with an MBBS degree, Dr. Bari has also completed his FCPS and FRCS and has advanced medical expertise in his field excelling in multiple surgical procedures including microscopic and neuronavigation guided procedures for complex spine and cerebrovascular surgery.



Asghar Hussain is working as a Consultant Oncologist at the Kiran hospital, Karachi. Dr. Hussain is a graduate of Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bahawalpur in 1996, Master in Nuclear Medicine from Pakistan Institute of Engineering & Applied Sciences (PIEAS) University, Islamabad in 2000 and FCPS in Oncology in 2009. He has 20 years of experience in the field of oncology in treating all kinds of cancer.



Ayesha Arshad is currently working as a Spine Surgeon at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Lahore, which is the Cancer Hospital of the region. After her post-graduation in Neurosurgery, she completed her fellowship at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, University Hospital Birmingham, UK in 2019, & then joined Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre, Lahore, where she has contributed to establishment of Spine Oncology Surgery Services, starting all kinds of spine oncology surgery in a short time span. She is also an active academician and researcher. She is a reviewer for the Journal of Rawalpindi Medical University. Her special interests include spinal intradural tumors, spine sarcomas & spine metastasis.



Muhammad Usman is working as an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at one of the prestigious institutes of KP, Lady Reading Hospital. After his post-graduation, he did fellowships in Skull base and micro neurosurgery from Cornell University USA and in Endoscopic Skull base surgery from Paris University, France. He is the author of more than 40 publications, Press and Publication secretary of Pakistan Society of Neurosurgeons and also supervisor for FCPS Neurosurgery. He has special interest in Skull base, neuro vascular and Neuro oncology.



Altaf Ali Laghari, MBBS, completed Neurosurgery residency at the Aga Khan University hospital, followed by FCPS in Neurosurgery and Fellowship in Surgical Neuro-oncology. He is a recipient of the best fellow award and a visiting fellow at St George's hospital, London awarded by the British Society of Neurosurgery. He completed a PhD in clinical sciences at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. His research interests include clinical and basic science research in glioblastoma and its serum microRNA prognostic markers. Dr. Laghari is currently working as a Senior Instructor in the Department of Neurosurgery, Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan.



Ahsan Ali Khan is a Neurosurgeon with a special interest in Neuro Oncology. He attended medical school and completed his neurosurgical training at the Southeast University, Nanjing, China. He pursued advanced training by completing the Global Neurotrauma Fellowship in affiliation with the Barrow Neurological Institute, Phoenix, Arizona, the Meditech Foundation, Colombia and the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. Furthermore, he completed an AO Spine Fellowship at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2020. Currently, he has joined the Department of Neurosurgery at the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan as a Surgical Neuro-Oncology fellow. His area of interest includes neuro-oncology (brain and spine), innovations in neurosurgery, and capacity building in limited resource settings.



Saad Akhtar Khan is working as an Assistant Professor Neurosurgery Liaquat National Hospital and a Consultant Neurosurgeon at Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi. Dr Khan completed his neurosurgery training from Aga Khan University Hospital in 2015. He was awarded the best resident award, second best research scholar by PGME at AKU and the most outstanding resident award by the Department of Surgery. He has 35 research publications along with a book chapter. His interests are awake brain tumor surgery, awake spinal surgery and skull base surgery. He has received numerous international travel grants from well celebrated neurosurgery societies.



M. Usman Khalid is an AKU alumnus from the class of 2020. He holds a keen interest in neurosurgery and neuro-oncological epidemiology, which he is pursuing as a career interest in his position as a Research Associate in the Deans Clinical Research Fellowship. Dr. Khalid hopes to pursue neurosurgery and develop impactful frameworks of change in Pakistan and abroad.



M. Hamza Bajwa is presently working as a Research Associate in Neurosurgery at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. He obtained his medical degree from the Fatima Memorial Hospital College of Medicine, Lahore and completed his internship here at AKU. His research interests include surgical neuro-oncology and capacity building in resource-limited settings.



Mashal Shah is a researcher in the Department of Surgery at AKUH. She holds a BSc in Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior and an MSc in Health Policy, Planning and Financing. She is interested in non-communicable disease policy and research in low-and-middle-income countries.



Erum Baig, an aspiring surgeon, is a graduate of the Aga Khan University, Karachi. Her passion for research is evident in her work as a medical student and DCRF research associate. Her topics of interest are brain tumors and pancreatic cancer



Saqib Kamran Bakhshi graduated from Aga Khan University Neurosurgery residency program in 2020. He is an avid researcher with more than 35 peer reviewed publications, and has presented his work at national & international conferences. He has special interest in neuro-oncology and epilepsy surgery. He is currently working as an Instructor in Neurosurgery at AKU.



Bushra Ahmad completed her MBBS from Wah Medical College in 2011. She is the first female graduate of the neurosurgery residency program in 2019. Currently, she is working as an assistant consultant in Quaid e Azam international hospital, Rawalpindi, Pakistan.



Aisha Sarwari co-founded The Women's Advancement Hub (WAH) that supports grassroots women and helps tell women's stories across sections of society in Pakistan. Her NGO works to reform all sections of society by passing on the mic to women to tell their own stories. She is the author of three published books, a globally acclaimed public speaker, and a diversity advocate.



Yasser Hamdani is a corporate and constitutional lawyer with a keen interest in digital rights. A Barrister of Lincoln's Inn holding an LLM and an LLB, he has also studied economics at Rutgers University, USA (2002). Mr. Hamdani is also the Asia Society Fellow (2014) and Harvard University Law and Human Rights Fellow (2018). Some of his notable constitutional and technology cases include the YouTube un-ban case (2013-2016), a challenge to the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act -PECA (2017-2020), and unbanning BIS for Blackberry (2011) in the early days of digital rights legislation in Pakistan. He is the author of a widely acclaimed book by PanMcMillan called Jinnah - A Life. He has also been the contributing author to The Print, Dawn, Daily Times, Express Tribune, Pakistan Today, The Hindu, India Today, Tony Blair Foundation, and Jinnah Institute.