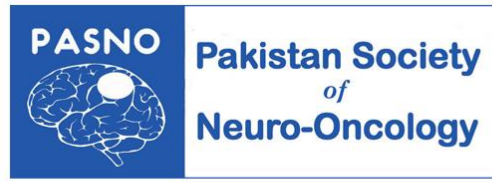


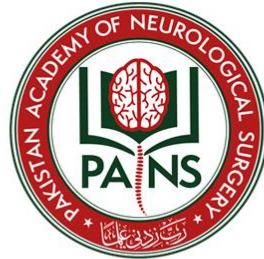
5th Annual Neuro-Oncology Symposium 5ANOS

Organized by the Pakistan Society of Neuro-Oncology (PASNO)

Saturday – Sunday, September 21st – 22nd, 2024



ZIAUDDIN UNIVERSITY



Contact us: info@pasno.org

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Dr. Syed Ather Enam
Pakistan Society of Neuro-Oncology

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Scientific Committee:

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Dr. Shah Khalid, Co-Chair

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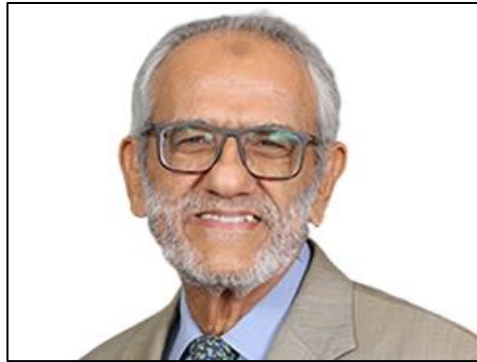
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Shafeen Gulamani

CHIEF GUEST



Mr. Mushtaq Chhapra is a leading Pakistani industrialist, philanthropist, and diplomat whose influence spans education, healthcare, and business. He is the founder and Chairman of The Citizens Foundation (TCF), which, since its inception in 1995, has grown into one of Pakistan's largest non-profit educational organizations. TCF operates over 730 schools in underserved rural and urban areas, offering quality education to children from marginalized communities. Additionally, Mr. Chhapra established the Patients Aid Foundation, which provides free medical assistance and medicines to impoverished patients, and The Kidney Centre, which offers treatment and dialysis to those suffering from kidney disease. Based in Karachi, he also serves as the honorary Consul General for the Nepalese Embassy and is a well-respected figure in both Pakistan's philanthropic and business circles.

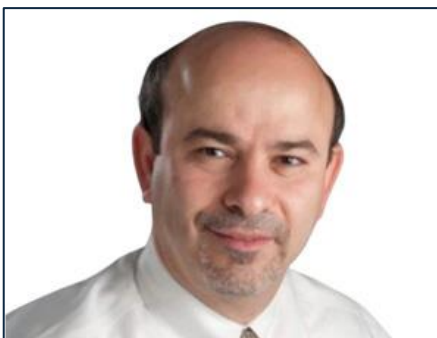
INTERNATIONAL FACULTY



Dr. Patrick Y. Wen is currently the co-chair of the National Cancer Institute Brain Malignancy Steering Committee and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Patrick 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 an avid researcher with his work primarily focusing on exploring novel therapies for brain tumors, particularly gliomas.



Dr. Sara Piccirillo currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Cell Biology & Physiology at the University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences Center and is a Full Member of the UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. Dr. Sara Piccirillo is a pioneer in her field, achieving groundbreaking advances in cancer research, with a particular focus on glioblastoma in adults. After completing her Ph.D. in Translational and Molecular Medicine in 2008 at the University of Milan-Bicocca, Dr. Piccirillo was awarded a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship in 2010 and worked as a Research Associate in the Department of Clinical Neurosciences of Cambridge University (UK). Her research explores the link between the genotype and phenotype of cancer stem-like cells in glioblastoma. Notably, she has been pivotal in the development of a pro-differentiating therapeutic agent that has successfully completed Phase I clinical trials. This agent holds a promise for improving treatment outcomes for glioblastoma patients.



Dr. Ibrahim Qaddoumi, MD, MS, is a distinguished pediatric hematologist-oncologist and a leading expert in neuro-oncology. As the Director of the Global Neuro-Oncology Program and the Jordan Program at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, he plays a pivotal role in advancing pediatric cancer care on a global scale. Dr. Qaddoumi is also an associate member of the St. Jude Global Pediatric Medicine Department. He earned his medical degree from Damascus University Medical School in Syria and completed his Master of Science at The Medical University of South Carolina. With over 20 years of experience in the field, his research focuses on brain tumors, pediatric oncology in resource-limited settings, and applications of telemedicine in oncology.



Dr. Ali Asgar Moiyadi is a Professor at the Tata Memorial Centre (TMC), India, and presently heads the neurosurgical oncology services there. He was instrumental in establishing the Neurosurgical Oncology services at 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 navigated ultrasound and optical imaging (which he has pioneered in the country), intraoperative

brain mapping including awake surgeries, surgery for eloquent tumors and insular gliomas, minimally invasive neurosurgery, skull base surgery and biology of malignant brain tumors.



Dr. Todd Hankinson is the Chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital Colorado and a Professor of Neurosurgery and Pediatrics at the Colorado School of Medicine. Professor Hankinson obtained his undergraduate degree from Middlebury College, Vermont, and his Doctor of Medicine from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, in 2003. Following this, he completed his residency at the New York-Presbyterian Hospital and a fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery at

the Children's Hospital of Alabama. Professor Hankinson also holds an MBA degree from the University of Oxford. Professor Hankinson has authored over a hundred publications, including multiple book chapters. His interests particularly lie in Pediatric Brain Tumors, Hydrocephalus and Pediatric Cervical Spine Disease.

NATIONAL FACULTY



Dr. Adeeba Zaki is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Oncology at the Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH). Over the past two years, she has also served as the Associate Residency Program Director at AKUH. In 2023, Dr. Zaki was awarded the prestigious Travel Grant for the ESMO Preceptorship in Gastric Cancer, held in Singapore.



Dr. Ahsan Ali Khan is an Assistant Professor at the Aga Khan University Hospital. He earned his MBBS from the Southeast University, China, and advanced his training with a fellowship in Neurotrauma and Spine Surgery, from Barrow Neurological Institute, USA, at National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics, Brazil respectively. In addition to his clinical practice, Dr. Ahsan is a passionate researcher with a focus on neurological tumors, minimally invasive neurosurgery, and the latest advancements in the

field.



Dr. Hamdan Ahmed Pasha is a Consultant of Otolaryngology at the Aga Khan University Hospital. He completed his MBBS degree from Dow University of Health Sciences, residency in Otolaryngology at Aga Khan University, and fellowship in Head and Neck Surgical Oncology and Microvascular Reconstructive Surgery at Harvard Medical School. His research interests encompass thyroid and parathyroid surgery, salivary gland tumors, and skull base cancers, as well as exploring the complex

interplay of genomics and head and neck surgery outcomes.



Dr. Muhammad Shahzad Shamim is a Professor and the Head of the Section of Neurosurgery in the Department of Surgery at the Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi. He completed his neurosurgery residency training from AKUH, and AANS Visiting Surgeon Fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital, USA. He also did a fellowship in Spine Surgery from the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery at Queen Square, UK.

His research interests include road traffic injury and spinal disorders, and he remains an active member of several professional associations, including the Pakistan Society of Neurosurgeons, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons. Prof. Shamim's clinical expertise spans neurosurgery and spine surgery, making him a leading figure in his field.



Dr. Syed Ather Enam is a renowned U.S. Board-certified Neurosurgeon and a Professor of Neurosurgery at The Aga Khan University, Karachi. He serves as the Director of the Center of Oncological Research in Surgery and the Scientific Director of Juma Research Laboratories at AKU. He remains the founding President of multiple influential societies such as the Pakistan Society of Basic and Applied Neuroscience, the Pakistan Society of Neuro-Oncology, and the Pakistan Academy of Neurological Surgery.

Prof. Enam holds Specialist Certification in Neurosurgery from Canada, FRCS from Canada, Ireland, and Glasgow (U.K.), and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He earned his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Northwestern University, USA, and has received numerous accolades for his contributions to neurosurgery both in the USA and Pakistan; these include the prestigious Sitara-e-Imtiaz, Physician of the Year Medallion, Master Surgeon Award, and Excellence in Neurosurgery Award. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the AANS-CNS Section of Brain Tumors (USA) and has delivered numerous global lectures on Neurosurgery, Neuro-Oncology, and Neurosciences.



Dr. Tamana Asghari is an esteemed senior instructor of Histopathology at the Aga Khan University. In 2021, she completed her residency in Histopathology while securing the best resident award, and obtained her FRCPath 1, from the Royal College of Pathologists in the UK. A member of the Pakistan Division of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP), her research interests include bone and soft tissue pathology, neuropathology, and molecular advancements. She has published multiple papers on head and neck tumors and

the prognosis of uterine sarcomas.



Dr. Fatima Mubarak is an experienced neuroradiologist with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital & healthcare industry. She is skilled in MRI, clinical research, medical education, and advanced neuroimaging. Dr. Mubarak completed her MCPS, FCPS and Neuroimaging fellowship from the Singapore General Hospital. She is also the first international outreach member of American Society of Neuroradiology from Pakistan, and member of the Asia-Oceania Regional Committee and the Quality

improvement network of Radiological Society of North America.



Dr. Kamran Saeed is a consultant radiation oncologist affiliated with the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre. Dr. Kamran Saeed is the Head of Department of the Cyberknife Robotic Surgery at Patients Aid Foundation - the only free Cyberknife treatment on the planet. He specializes in treating conditions such as meningiomas, acoustic neuromas, brain metastasis, and pituitary adenomas. Dr. Saeed has previously held key positions at renowned institutions like INMOL (Institute of Nuclear Medicine and College), Lahore and CENAR (Centre for

Nuclear Medicine and Radiotherapy), Quetta. Dr. Saeed holds a versatile skillset in the field of oncology, Cyberknife, and cancer research and provides exceptional care to his patients.



Dr. Adnan Jabbar holds an esteemed position as Professor and Chairman of the Oncology Department at Dr. Ziauddin Hospital. He completed his PhD in Immunology from Rush University, Chicago, USA, in 2005, and received his fellowship in Oncology at the Winship Cancer Institute, Emory University in 2011. As an American Board of Oncology (2011) and American Board of Internal Medicine (2007) certified professional, Dr. Jabbar specializes in the treatment of brain tumors and gastrointestinal malignancies, and his research

focuses on advancing therapeutic strategies for these cancers.



Dr. Irfan Yousaf is a Consultant Surgical Oncologist in the Department of Neurosurgery at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Center, where he has been working since April 2014. Having graduated from the King Edward Medical University in 1985, Dr Yousaf then went on to complete his fellowships in General Surgery and Neurosurgery in Ireland. Dr Yousaf holds a respectable 23 publications on topics pertaining to Neurosurgery and Neuro-oncology.



Dr. Asim Hafiz is a Consultant Radiation Oncologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Oncology at the Aga Khan University Hospital. He has over twelve years of experience, specializing in CNS and Head and Neck Cancers. Dr. Hafiz is a member of many Pakistani oncological societies, including the Radiation Oncology Society of the Radiological Society of Pakistan and the Pakistan Society of Clinical Oncology.



Dr. Shahzadi Resham is a pioneering figure in Pediatric Palliative Care in Pakistan, leading the only specialized team at Aga Khan University Hospital. Her training at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital equipped her with the skills to provide holistic care, addressing both the physical symptoms and emotional needs of children with life-limiting illnesses. Dr. Resham's efforts have been instrumental in integrating palliative care into pediatric healthcare in Pakistan, ensuring that children receive

compassionate and dignified care during the most challenging times. Her work goes beyond clinical care, as she actively advocates for the importance of palliative care in medical education and policy. Dr. Resham's dedication to improving the quality of life for her patients and their families has made her a respected leader in the field, both nationally and internationally, earning her recognition as a trailblazer in pediatric palliative care.



Dr. Saad Bin Anis is a consultant neurosurgeon at the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital with a special interest in pediatric neurosurgery. He received his foundational training at Aga Khan University Hospital and further honed his expertise by earning an FRCS from the Royal College of Surgeons of England, where he was awarded the prestigious Joint Surgical Colleges Medal. His pursuit of excellence led him to complete a fellowship in Pediatric Neurosurgery at

Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, and he is poised to further specialize with a Pituitary and Skull Base Fellowship in Brisbane. Dr. Saad's clinical interests include minimally invasive neurosurgical techniques and the treatment of complex cranial conditions in children. Dr. Saad is committed to advancing neurosurgical care in Pakistan and contributing to the global medical community.



Dr. Saad Akhtar Khan is working as an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at Liaquat National Hospital and a Consultant Neurosurgeon at Aga Khan University Hospital, Karachi. He completed his neurosurgery training at Aga Khan University Hospital in 2015. He was awarded the best resident award, the second-best research scholar by the Department of Postgraduate Medical Education at Aga Khan University, and the Most Outstanding Resident Award by the Department of Surgery. He has 35 research

publications along with a book chapter. His area of interest includes surgical neuro-oncology, especially awake brain tumors surgeries and endoscopic skull base surgeries. He also has a keen interest in medical education and is currently an MHPE scholar as well.



Ms. Komal Syed is founder of the Brain Tumour Foundation of Pakistan where she has made significant strides in providing support, education, and resources to individuals affected by brain tumors in Pakistan. Her dedication to brain tumor advocacy is also evident from her previous volunteer work as a project manager for the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada, where she led support initiatives and workshops.

Having received her BBA from the University of Toronto and an MBA from INSEAD, Ms. Syed's professional journey includes valuable experience at Unilever, where she managed iconic brands, driving substantial growth and market share improvements. Her current position at Amazon as Senior Product Manager-Tech showcases her expertise in enhancing customer experiences and driving product innovation.



Dr. Zafar Sajjad is currently the Chair and Professor in the Department of Radiology at the Aga Khan University. He completed his radiology residency at Royal Stoke University Hospitals, UK, and fellowship in neuroradiology at Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals, UK. He has held consultant radiologist appointment at East Lancashire Teaching Hospitals in the UK and has also been an honorary professor at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center, Karachi, since 2009.



Dr. Salman Yousuf Sharif is currently serving as the Head of the Department of Spinal and Neurosurgery at Liaquat National Hospital in Karachi, Pakistan. Dr. Sharif completed his F.R.C.S in General Surgery from England and his F.R.C.S in Neurosurgery. He has also served as a visiting professor at several prestigious institutions, including the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the Cleveland Clinic, Ohio, and Kiel University, Germany. These roles have allowed him to share his expertise and collaborate with leading neurosurgeons worldwide.

Dr. Sharif is actively involved in numerous professional organizations. He is an executive committee member of the World Federation of Neurological Surgeons and has served as the vice president of the Pakistan Society of Neurosurgeons.



Dr. Riaz Ahmed Raja is the Head of the Department and Professor of neurosurgery at Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS). He is an active advocate for medical education and research and holds sessions regularly for FCPS-II candidates applying for neurosurgery. He has also co-designed the curriculum for neurosurgery for several universities in Sindh. Dr. Riaz specializes in Endoscopic spinal and skull base surgery and other minimally invasive procedures.



plans for patients of all ages.

Dr. Atique Ahmed Khan is a Professor and Chairperson of the department of Neurosurgery at Civil Hospital, Dow University of Health Sciences. Dr. Atique Ahmed Khan is a highly specialized neurosurgeon, experienced in treating various neurological conditions. With extensive experience in prestigious hospitals, he provides comprehensive pre- and post-surgical care. Dr. Khan's expertise spans risk assessment, prevention, and management of neurological conditions, offering tailored treatment



management. Her special interest lies in pediatric neurosurgery, neurotrauma, and neuro-oncology.

Dr. Iram Bokhari is the Head of the Department and Associate Professor of neurosurgery at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Center, Karachi. After getting her MBBS degree she completed her FCPS training in general surgery. Later, she pursued neurosurgery training and gained her second FCPS in neurological surgery. In her private practice, she has gained vast experience of managing all kinds of complex neurosurgical cases. Dr. Bokhari has numerous research papers focusing on complex surgical case



Programme at the Aga Khan University Hospital. As a researcher, she takes keen interest in brain tumors.

Dr. 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. She is also credited for starting the Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Fellowship



Dr. Hafiza Fatima Aziz is currently serving as a Consultant Neurosurgeon at Dr. Ziauddin Hospital, Karachi, Pakistan. She completed her FCPS in Neurosurgery from Aga Khan University and did her Surgical Neuro-Oncology Fellowship here. Dr. Aziz is recognized for her contributions to neurosurgical education and research, having received the Excellence in Research Award at the Aga Khan University. She is actively involved in the Pakistan Academy of

Neurological Surgery and frequently participates in bootcamps to mentor aspiring neurosurgeons. She has contributed to numerous research projects aimed at improving the understanding and treatment of brain tumors. Her areas of interest include Neuro-Oncology and skull base surgery.



Dr. Saqib Kamran Bakhshi is currently an Assistant Professor in the Section of Neurosurgery, Department of Surgery at Aga Khan University, Pakistan, where he also completed his Neurosurgery residency. He earned the FCPS in Neurosurgery in 2020 and the MRCPS (Member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons) from Glasgow in 2022. His clinical interests include pediatric neurosurgery and epilepsy surgery.

Dr. Bakhshi is a member of the Pakistan Society of Neurosurgeons, the Pakistan Academy of Neurological Surgery, the Pakistan Society of Neuro-oncology, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons, the Congress of Neurological Surgeons, and the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies. Dr. Bakhshi is also known for his commitment to teaching and mentoring young neurosurgeons, fostering a culture of learning and innovation.



Dr. Bilal Mazhar Qureshi currently serves as an Assistant Professor and Head of the Radiation Oncology Section, and co-chairs the Radiation Protection Committee at the Aga Khan University, Pakistan. He is deeply committed to improving childhood cancer care and is actively involved in developing national treatment protocols for various cancers. His research interests include Pediatric Radiation Therapy, Quality in Radiation Therapy, Radiation Therapy Planning,

Genitourinary tumors and Gynaecologic tumors. In addition to his clinical and research endeavors, Dr. Qureshi is passionate about education and mentorship. He has organized pediatric radiotherapy planning workshops at various centers in Pakistan and is involved in the My Child Matters Project, which focuses on capacity building for pediatric neuro-oncology in Pakistan. His efforts aim to ensure that children everywhere have access to comprehensive, efficient, and integrated radiation treatment services as part of evidence-based, multidisciplinary childhood cancer care programs.



Dr. Aisha Hassan Memon is a distinguished Histopathologist currently serving as an Assistant Professor at the Aga Khan University Hospital, with a sub-specialty interest in Neuropathology and Renal Pathology. She graduated from King Edward Medical University, Lahore in 2001 and did her residency in Histopathology at Aga Khan University Hospital and achieved an FCPS degree in 2010 and an FRCpath from the UK in 2024. She went for Neuropathology training at UCLH Institute of Neurology in London in

2022 and again in 2024. She has a number of publications and book chapters to her credit.



Dr. Zahra Azhar is an oncology pharmacist and the Assistant Manager (Research and Academia) at the Centre for Regenerative Medicine (CRM) at Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH). A graduate of the Bart Cancer Institute, Queen Mary University of London, she focuses on aberrant cell signaling pathways in cancer and targeted therapies. Her expertise includes chemotherapy preparation, therapy analysis, and Quality Control. Her notable publications include research on targeting colony-stimulating factor 1

receptor and anti-emetic protocols for chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting.



Dr. M. Ehsan Bari is an Associate Professor at the Aga Khan University Karachi. Having graduated with an MBBS degree from Allama Iqbal Medical College, in 1986, 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 neuro-navigation guided procedures for complex spine and cerebrovascular surgery.



Dr. Altaf Ali Laghari is an Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and a PhD Scholar at the Aga Khan University Karachi. He 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. His research interests include clinical and basic science research in glioblastoma and its serum microRNA prognostic markers.



Dr. Farrah Bashir is a Pediatric Neuro-oncologist at the Aga Khan University Hospital. She completed her MBBS in 2006, and FCPS in Pediatric Hematology & Oncology in 2024. She was awarded as the Best Pediatric Neuro-Oncology Fellow in 2022.



Dr. Muhammad Abid Saleem is currently a consultant Neurosurgeon at Dow University of Health Sciences, and Head of Department of the Dow Gamma-knife Radiosurgery. He has been awarded the OV Jooma Gold Medal by the Pakistan Society of Neurosurgery for his pioneering work in neuro-endoscopy at JPMC Karachi. Previously, he has also worked as the Director Gamma Knife Radiosurgery at Neuro-spinal & Cancer Care Institute of Pakistan for 13 years. Dr. Abid has several publications in international journals and has presented more than 50

papers at various conferences all over Pakistan and at major international conferences in Europe and North America.

PATIENTS' ADVOCACY SESSION "STRONGER TOGETHER"



Ashfaq Ahmed is a Lab technologist at Mufti Mehmood Memorial Teaching Hospital in Dera Ismail Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and was diagnosed with a non-malignant glioma in 2018. Mr. Ahmed subsequently underwent resection surgery in Rawalpindi and then cyber knife treatment in Karachi. He has been a fighter since day 1, has been a brain tumor patient advocate, and a source of inspiration for others. Despite being immunocompromised, Mr. Ahmed was the first healthcare worker who accepted the duty in his profession to collect the first

COVID sample from the first quarantine center of Pakistan, an act which encouraged other health workers to join the frontline.



Gohar Ali is an economics and finance graduate from Islamabad and runs a successful pharmaceutical distribution company in his home province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Six months ago, Mr. Ali was diagnosed with a brain tumor, a news that upended his life, but with the support of family and loved ones, and a strong desire to survive, he has managed to stay ahead of his potentially life-threatening condition.



Dr. Shaista Effendi is a Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive, Burn and Aesthetic Surgeon at Dr. Ziauddin Hospital, Karachi, and founding member of the Pakistan Association of Plastic Surgeons. She conceptualized and commissioned the 65 bedded, free of cost, biggest international Burns Centre at Civil Hospital, Karachi. Dr. Shaista is very close to the cause of providing holistic care to her patients in terms of non-medical support outside of the traditional clinic set-up,

understanding the needs of her trauma patients and has more recently taken on the role of Supervisor & Counsellor in Holistic practice for Malignancies, Congenital Variations, Trauma, Burns, Addiction, PTSD and more.



Dr. 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 is the first of its kind entity in India in the non-public sector. Various aspects like patient support group, monthly support group meeting, arranging for financial

needs and special tests are addressed at BTSG.



Yasser Hamdani is a corporate and constitutional lawyer with a keen interest in digital rights. A Barrister of Lincoln's Inn, he also studied economics at Rutgers University, USA in 2002. Mr. Hamdani is also an 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 Pan McMillan 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. Last but not least, Yasser is a brain tumor warrior and survivor.



Melissa Lim founded the Brain Tumor Society Singapore (BTSS), in 2014 and currently serves as its President. Her personal mission to help brain tumor patients and caregivers started further back in February 2004 from her first-hand experience as a brain tumor patient. She found herself isolated in her struggle to recover from the 16-hour brain operation which removed a 3.5 cm acoustic neuroma. This experience closely echoed the lonely journey she shared earlier

with her late mother who was terminally ill with brain cancer.

Ms. Lim is also co-leading an informal Asia Pacific Brain Tumor Alliance to connect, nurture and collaborate with patient leaders for the brain tumor cause in Japan, India, Pakistan, China, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand, and was awarded the Singapore Health Inspirational Patient Award in March 2015. She has participated in the WHO informal consultations, as well as served as a moderator for the NCD Alliance Regional Consultation for SE Asia and West Pacific for the Global Charter for people living with non-communicable diseases. She specializes in leadership, talent development, organizational development and service

excellence, and has worked with numerous international clients across diverse industries. ‘Connecting to Befriend, Enable and Empower’, is the mission statement that remains her personal mantra today.



Aisha Sarwari co-founded the Women’s Advancement Hub that supports grassroots women and 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.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

Day 1 - Saturday, September 21st, 2024

Sessions			
Saturday, September 21 st , 2024, 8:55- 21:00 (Pakistan Time; GMT +5)			
SESSION 1 (Chair: Dr. Asim Hafiz; Co-chair: Dr. Saad Bin Anis)			
Time	Duration	Faculty	Topic
08:55 – 09:00	05 mins	Chair Scientific Committee	Program Overview
09:00 – 09:15	15 mins	Dr. Aisha Memon	Molecular Markers in Glioma
09:15 – 09:30	15 mins	Dr. Zehra Azhar	Immunotherapy for glioma: Current State & Future Prospects
09:30 – 09:45	15 mins	Dr. M Shahzad Shamim	Supramarginal Resection in Low-grade glioma: Does it increase survival
09:45 – 10:00	15 mins	Dr. Kamran Saeed	Stereotactic Radiosurgery for Pituitary Adenoma; Strategies for residual and recurrent tumors
10:00 – 10:15	15 mins	Dr. Adeeba Zaki	Alternative chemotherapy, beyond traditional treatment
10:15 – 10:30	15 mins	Dr. Abid Saleem	Role of Gamma Knife radiosurgery in biopsy proven LGG
10:30 – 10:35	5 mins	Dr. Zanib Javed	Awake craniotomy in Low-Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review
10:35 – 10:40	5 mins	Dr. Danisha Kumar	Efficacy of adjuvant temozolomide compared to standard of care in primary central nervous system lymphoma: A systematic review-
10:40 – 10:45	5 mins	Dr. Haseeb Mehmood Qadri	Primary Intracranial Leiomyosarcoma (PICLMS): A Systematic Review of Case Reports and Case Series from 2000 to 2023
10:45 – 10:50	5 mins	Dr. Malaika Khan	Transcriptomic insights into long-noncoding RNA (lncRNA)-mediated pathways in Medulloblastoma (MB) subtypes
10:50 – 10:55	05 mins		Questions/Answers
10:55 – 11:15	20 mins	Tea Break	
SESSION 2: Inauguration			
11:15 – 11:25	10 mins	Dr. Adnan Jabbar	Opening Address by Chair of Conference
11:25 – 11:35	10 mins	Dr. Syed Ather Enam	Welcome Address by PASNO President
11:35 – 12:05	30 mins	Mr. Mushtaq Chhapra	Address by the Chief Guest
12:05 – 12:30	25 mins	Dr. Patrick Wen	Keynote Talk: Recent advances in the treatment of gliomas
12:30 – 12:55	25 mins	Dr. Sara Piccirillo	Keynote Talk: Intra-tumor heterogeneity of human glioblastoma at single-cell and spatial resolution
12:55 – 01:55	60 mins	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
SESSION 3 (Chair: Dr. Iram Bokhari; Co-Chair: Dr. Altaf Laghari)			
01:55 – 02:20	25 mins	Dr. Todd Hankinson	Keynote Lecture: Biological advances and clinical translation in pediatric Craniopharyngioma

02:20 – 02:35	15 mins	Dr. Asim Hafiz	Stereotactic Radiosurgery for Extra-axial tumors: Factors effecting clinical outcomes
02:35 – 02:50	15 mins	Dr. Irfan Yousaf	Endoscopic endonasal approach to giant pituitary adenomas; limitations and alternatives to successful outcome
02:50 – 03:05	15 mins	Dr. Hamdan Pasha	Endoscopic Approach for Anterior Skull-base tumors: does ENT-Neurosurgery Collaboration Help?
03:05 – 03:10	5 mins	Dr. Haseeb Mehmood Qadri	Primary Intracranial Congenital Glioblastoma (PICG): A Systematic Review of Case Reports from 2000 to 2023-
03:10 – 03:15	5 mins	Dr. Danisha Kumar	Trends in Meningioma-Related Mortality in Adults in the United States, 1999-2020
03:15 – 03:20	5 mins	Dr. Rabeet Tariq	The Mirage: Brain State Theory as a Better Model for the “Non-eloquent” Brain
03:20 – 03:25	5 mins	Muhammad Awais Khan	Epigenetic Switches in Group 3/4 Medulloblastoma
03:30 – 04:00	10 mins	Tea Break	
SESSION 4 (Chair: Dr. Naureen Mushtaq; Co-Chair: Dr. Saad Akhtar Khan)			
04:00 – 04:25	25 mins	Dr. Ibrahim Qaddoumi	Keynote Lecture: Delayed diagnosis in pediatric CNS tumors and “diagnostic imprinting”: How to avoid labeling the patient?
04:25 – 04:40	15 mins	Dr. Shahzadi Resham	Palliative care in children
04:40 – 04:55	15 mins	Dr. Saad Bin Anis	Surgical challenges in resecting posterior fossa tumors in children
04:55 – 05:10	15 mins	Dr. Farrah Bashir	Targeted therapy in Pediatric glioma
05:10 – 05:25	15 mins	Dr. Bilal Mazhar Qureshi	Stereotactic radiosurgery vs. conventional radiation for posterior fossa brain tumors in children
05:25 – 05:30	5 mins	Dr. Rahat Ul Ain	Real-world experience in dealing with children with suspected central nervous system (CNS) tumors at the Children’s Hospital Lahore (UCHS), Pakistan
05:30 – 05:35	5 mins	Dr. Rahat Ul Ain	Radiation-induced DIPG in a child previously irradiated for Craniopharyngioma: Case report and literature review
05:35 – 05:40	5 mins	Dr. Haseeb Mehmood	Outcomes of Transcranial Excision of Craniopharyngioma: A Brief Retrospective Series
05:40 – 05:45	05 mins		Questions/Answers
SESSION 5			
<i>Patients Advocacy Session Stronger Together</i>			
05:45 – 06:00	15 mins	Komal Syed	Stronger Together- Brain Tumor Foundation of Pakistan
06:00 – 06:15	15 mins	Dr. Shaista Effendi	How can Medical Professionals offer rounded support? – <i>A Pakistani Template</i>
06:15 – 06:30	15 mins	Aisha Sarwari & Yasser Hamdani	Juggling through the realities of life – <i>A lived experience</i>
06:30 – 06:45	15 mins	Dr. Nitin Garg & Melissa Lim	Pannel discussion: Together we can do Magic – International Perspectives
06:45 – 07:00	15 mins	Ashfaq Ahmed & Gohar Ali	Pannel discussion with Brain Tumor Warriors

07:00 – 07:15	15 mins	All Speakers	Open Q&A with Speakers
07:15 – 07:30	15 mins	Everyone impacted by a BT is welcome to participate	Walk of life

Day 2 - Sunday, September 22nd, 2024

Sessions			
SESSION 6 (Chair: Dr. Ateeq Khan; Co-Chair: Dr. Kamran Saeed)			
Sunday, September 22nd, 2024, 9:00 - 12:35 (Pakistan Time; GMT +5)			
Time	Duration	Faculty	Topic
09:15 – 09:30	15 mins	Dr. Zafar Sajjad	Radio genomics for Brain Tumor Diagnosis
09:30 – 09:45	15 mins	Dr. Todd Hankinson	Management of Pineal region tumors in Adolescents
09:45 – 10:00	15 mins	Dr. Salman Sharif	Recent Advances in the Management of Spine Tumors
10:00 – 10:15	15 mins	Dr. Ibrahim Qaddoumi	Late Effects of CNS Tumors in Children
10:15 – 10:30	15 mins	Dr. Ehsan Bari	Sub-total Resection for facial nerve preservation in Vestibular Schwannoma: Is it the standard of care?
10:30 – 10:35	5 mins	Dr. Zanib Javed	Factors predicting prolonged period of inpatient hospital stay after craniotomy for resection of tumor
10:35 – 10:40	5 mins	Dr. Marium Sultan Dar	Efficacy and Safety of Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy in the Treatment of Glioblastoma: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis- Marium Sultan Dar
10:40 – 10:45	5 mins	Dr. Haseeb Mehmood	Free-hand Frameless Pinless Electromagnetic-Navigation (AXIEM TM)-Guided Brain Lesion Biopsies: An Institution Based Experience from a Low-Middle-Income Country
10:45 – 10:50	5 mins		Question/Answer
10:50 – 11:10	20 mins	Tea Break	
SESSION 7 (Chair: Dr. Riaz Ahmed Raja; Co-Chair: Dr. Fatima Mubarak)			
11:10 – 11:25	15 mins	Dr. Syed Ather Enam	Global Neuro-Oncology
11:25 – 11:40	15 mins	Dr. Hafiza Fatima Aziz	Neuro-oncology Guidelines for LMIC
11:40 – 12:10	30 mins	Dr. Todd Hankinson, Dr. Ibrahim Qaddoumi, Dr. Adnan Jabbar, Dr. Kamran Saeed	Panel Discussion: Challenges to Global Neuro-oncology
12:10 – 12:15	5 mins	Dr. Saqib Kamran Bakhshi	Closing Remarks by Scientific Chair

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