



# نشرة الاتحاد العالمي للجمعيات الطبية الاسلامية

e-newsletter of Federation of Islamic Medical Associations

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I just left Bhurban a hill station some 500 kilometers away from my home in Lahore after delivering a lecture and attending the three-day consultative workshop on 'Ending polio in Pakistan by end 2015: the final opportunity and call for action' with 180 health personnel associated with the polio programme across the country finalising action plans to arrest polio during the next six months that are marked by low transmission of the virus.

This event was Organised by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination (NHSRC), the workshop started on November 18 and concluded on Thursday with the

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## GREEN CRESCENT TURKEY HOLDS INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON DRUG POLICY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The International Symposium on Drug Policy and Public Health was held in Istanbul on September 29th October 1st, 2014. The Symposium was organized by the Turkish Green Crescent Society and has been supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe, the European

Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the Turkish Ministry of Health, the Turkish Ministry of Family and Social Policies, the Turkish Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Turkish Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction TUBIM.

The President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Recep Tayyip



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Erdogan and 5 honorable ministers from Turkey have honored the symposium as well as many national and international heads of organizations and institutions.

The Turkish Green Crescent Society invited FIMA Addiction Working Group Members and representatives of the Country Green Crescents within FIMA to the Symposium. 6 Representatives of the Addiction Working Group from Federation of Islamic Medical Association (FIMA)

member countries, and Country Green Crescent representatives from 20 countries participated in the Symposium.

Furthermore;

- 85 speakers and chairs from different countries.
  - 8 focal points of Council of Europe, Pompidou Group from European Region.
  - 15 focal points of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries by
- Experts, university students, teachers, psychologists, Green Crescent branches and representatives from Turkey and totally 1270 participants from 65 countries took part in the symposium.







## FIMA EXCO STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE BRUTAL ATTACK ON SCHOOL CHILDREN IN PESHAWAR, PAKISTAN

The FIMA executive committee strongly condemns the brutal and inhumane attacks on innocent students and educators in Peshawar, Pakistan on Monday, December 16th 2014, which took a toll of 146 innocent precious human lives. We, as Muslim Physicians stand in solidarity with the people of KPK and Pakistan, and all who fight the menace of terrorism.

We are shocked and deeply

grieved to learn about this unbelievable and senseless carnage by the terrorists. No words are adequate to express our pain and agony on the killing of innocent school children. Our condolences to the bereaved families.

We resolve that all the heinous terrorist attack, against innocent people, especially vulnerable children, should not be tolerated and exemplary punishment be

meted out to the perpetrators of such inhumane crimes. The incident only reaffirms our resolve to fight terrorism with more determination and firmness.

FIMA EXCO also appreciates the efforts of PIMA Peshawar in assisting provision of emergent medical care to the injured, volunteering to donate blood and help the families in this moment of grief.





IMANA Ophthalmology is one of the forums of IMANA Specialties. IMANA Specialties are networking groups that provide forums for fellow specialists at IMANA meetings or specialty meetings. IMANA headquarters facilitates all the logistics, marketing and any financial processing and related administrative tasks for IMANA Specialty meetings.

Muslim Ophthalmologists organized a networking dinner for Muslim Ophthalmologists to coincide with the American Academy of Ophthalmology (AAO) Annual Meeting from October 18-21, 2014 in Chicago.

The networking dinner was held on Saturday, October 18, 2014 at the beautiful Alhambra Palace Restaurant located 5 miles from the McCormick Place, the venue of the AAO meeting.

Drs. Ahmad Sadiq and Azhar Qazi, were special guests from FIMA SaveVision, which has served over 1 million patients with over 100,000 surgeries in various eye camps throughout the world. Special presentations about FIMA SaveVision efforts were given by Dr. Sameer Ahmad an IMANA Life Member who discussed the importance of how Ophthalmologists in North America should get involved with various FIMA SaveVision efforts to serve those in need. Dr. Babur Lateef another dedicated IMANA Life Member shared his personal volunteer experience with IMANA Medical Relief Mission in Haiti and he encouraged other physicians to volunteer for future IMANA missions. Over 60 Ophthalmologists were present. The highly accomplished and dynamic Dr. Iqbal "IKE" Ahmed was IMANA's special guest speaker. His remarks inspired and

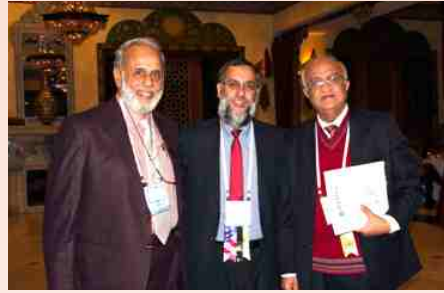
were appreciated by all who attended.

Jessica Censotti from IMANA Headquarters was the event coordinator with the help of four enthusiastic IMANA volunteers Saniya Saleem, Ansar Mohammed, Bushra Khan and Ibtihaj Fughi.

This delightful event provided Muslim Ophthalmologist an opportunity to network and share ideas. This evening was enjoyed by all the Ophthalmologist who attended.

Please contact Rasheed Ahmed, IMANA Executive Director, at [Rasheed@IMANA.org](mailto:Rasheed@IMANA.org) if you would like to plan a similar networking dinner for your specialty in your city. IMANA would be delighted to work with you to provide a forum for your specialty.





# FIMA REITERATES ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE

FIMA is extending its full support to WHO MDG programme with a special focus to developing Muslim countries in the wake of Kuala Lumpur declaration issued at FIMA-IMAM scientific Conference in 2012. There has been an ever increasing focus on the elimination and control of communicable diseases. Unfortunately polio is still prevalent in Pakistan and two other Muslim countries including Afghanistan and Nigeria. The incidence is reaching alarming proportions, where 290 cases have been reported in 2014, beating the last ten years record. 95% of Pakistani territory is already clear of disease.

Muslim Physicians, scientists and Ulema (from various schools of thought) have deliberated on this matter and have arrived at a unanimous conclusion that Polio vaccine is safe, effective and is

harmless for Muslim children. In consultation with senior Islamic scholars, physicians analyzed the doubts and suspicions around polio eradication from an academic, Islamic Jurisprudence, medical and political perspective and found all suspicions to be unfounded. Contrary to existing rumors, Physicians and scholars

overwhelmingly agree that polio vaccines are safe, do not have ingredients that cause infertility or harm to the reproductive system and do not contain any "Haram" or hazardous to health ingredients.

Senior Islamic leaders around the world have issued nearly 30 fatwas promoting the safety of





polio vaccines, and the Islamic Advisory Group (IAG), under the leadership of the Grand Imam of the Holy Mosque of Mecca, issued a declaration to support vaccination. Additionally, a range of Muslim donors have contributed to the polio eradication effort, including the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Development Bank and several Muslim philanthropists. The main brunt is borne by Government of Pakistan and delay in the eradication of Polio is adding further undue load on the national exchequer. But more must be done to defeat this disease.

Representatives from Federation of Islamic Medical Associations, Pakistan Pediatrics Association,

Pakistan Medical Association, Pakistan Islamic Medical Association, YDA, Forum of Family physicians, Punjab Specialists Association and other bodies urged the Muslim brothers and sisters to support vaccination against polio programme.

FIMA has called on the Government of Pakistan to enhance the health budget especially for preventive health, strengthen political and financial commitment to ending polio.

Muslim communities are urged to stand together as a unified front to recognize polio eradication as a priority and sustain support at all levels until eradication is achieved.

Local leaders, media, educational

institutions, and civil society to work to dispel myths and rumors about polio vaccines, disseminate research-based information on the safety of the vaccines to the public and encourage families to seek vaccination services.

Government of Pakistan shall ensure the safety of polio health workers and provide them security and community support in dispensing their duties to protect all children.

FIMA also urged on the global community to continue to bridge the delivery of polio vaccines and broader health services to ensure a lasting impact on child health initiatives even after eradication.



**Muslim medics to tackle polio**  
 The National Staff  
 October 30, 2014 (edited: October 30, 2014 08:57 PM)  
 Muslim physicians are being urged to join hands to end polio. EPA / Ghulamulrah Habibi  
 The Federation of Islamic Medical Associations' call to action on polio eradication and children's health, which is being signed by Muslim physicians from around the world, will outline steps that leaders and stakeholders in the Muslim world need to take to eradicate the disease.  
 Dr Jamil Itani, a paediatrician and medical director at ProVita International Medical Centre in Abu Dhabi, said "It is our duty to take care of our children, educate families on the importance and safety of vaccines".

## REPORT OF IMANA RELIEF FOR IDPs OF NORTH WAZIRISTAN IN PAKISTAN

The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) registered with the Fata Disaster Management Authority (FDMA) has reached 950,000 and those fleeing from North Waziristan Agency face health related challenges. The initiative to clear the area from insurgents was started on 16th June 2014. The operation was started by Pakistan Army supported by the Government of Pakistan and other major stakeholders.

Almost half of that number, mostly children and women, face serious health hazards due to poor hygienic conditions, in addition to severe cold weather which has increased ARI (Acute Respiratory Infection), gastro infections, skin and other water borne diseases. Hundreds of patients mostly children, women and elderly tribesmen are arriving at hospitals with Influenza, gastroenteritis, ARI infections and diarrhea infections but further, the hospital conditions and facilities are inadequate to

cope with the situation.

Many of the IDPs are complaining that the children are the most affected as many of them are malnourished as well. Living in highly unhygienic conditions has multiplied their problems and the infection ratio is very high due to poor sanitation.

IMANA in collaboration with FIMA started an outreach program to provide healthcare facilities to a large number of IDPs scattered at various places in the surrounding districts of Bannu in a purpose built mobile hospital. A total number of 10,000 patients were examined and provided medical treatment. The IMANA mobile clinic visited the following areas.



A considerable amount of medicine, medical and humanitarian relief supplies were provided to the destitute. 10 doctors and paramedical staff members served for more than 40 days and visited far flung areas.

The following spots were visited by the mobile IMANA hospital including Bannu township, Khema basti Azad Mandi, Khema Link Road Bezan Khel Chowk, Basti Tarkhom, Barak Khel Khandan, Ameen Kala, Sarani, Sarai Naurang, Tajori, Masti khel, Tarkhoba, Hawaid, Lakki Marwat, Lal Khel, Mohmand Khel, Sikander Khel Aski, People Bazaar, Jhando Khel, Chasma Domel, Pakka Khel, Kohat, Dera Ismail Khan, khyberkali, Peshawar

As the operation has been extended to the Khyber agency, there is a dire need for rehabilitation and provision of healthcare facilities to the fresh influx of IDPs.







## PIMA CENTRAL EXECUTIVE C MEETING HELD IN LAHORE, PAKISTAN



Central executive council meeting of PIMA was held at PIMA House Lahore on 23-24 November. It was presided over by Prof Sohail Akhtar, central PIMA president. Forty five members of CEC

including the provincial presidents attended the meeting. Progress reports of PIMA activities over the last six months were presented and further plans of action discussed. Provincial

progress reports were also part of this session. A review of provincial conventions to be held were also presented that will be held March on April 2015 at Sialkot, Karachi, Rawalakot, Quetta and Swat.

## REMAINING MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

Minister of State Saira Afzal Tarar in the chair.

All provincial representatives and Prime Minister's Focal Person on Polio, secretary of the Ministry of NHSRC, representatives from GHQ, UAE government and development partners participated in the session.

As medical professionals and members of IMAs committed to MDG-2015, We shall be mindful to our international commitments, but that should come later and we should be accountable to our own people, to our children, communities and families. It must be very clear that we are on a mission to save our own children and have no choice but to perform and make it happen.

Polio cases have dropped 99% worldwide since 1988, but the disease continues to persist in a handful of Muslim majority countries. We have an opportunity and a duty to end polio once and for all, and I'm reaching out to ask for your support.

Standing behind polio eradication means much more than just eliminating the threat of this crippling disease it's also protecting the health of future generations. The polio program provides a foundation to reach all children with other vaccines and health interventions.

But a polio-free world can only be possible with support from all levels of Muslim communities. A growing number of political and religious leaders in the Muslim world are taking action to end polio. Imams have issued nearly 30 fatwas promoting the safety of polio vaccines and a range of Muslim donors, from governments to philanthropists, have contributed critical funds to the eradication effort. As Muslim physicians, we have a particularly important role to play our voices are crucial to both educate our communities on vaccines and advocate for eradication at a policy-level.

That is why the Federation of Islamic Medical Associations (FIMA) is launching the Muslim Physicians' Call to Action on Polio Eradication and Children's Health (attached), an initiative to unite Muslim physicians against polio, and call for country and global leaders to prioritize eradication.

A large number of our IMA members have already signed on as a champion of the call to action and suggested that you would be interested in joining as well. To sign on to the call to action, please reply to this e-mail or complete this form: <http://goo.gl/forms/JMSvZyuVSt>. The call to action will be officially launched in early 2015 we ask that you do not publish the call to action text publically until we finish collecting signatures.

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In the next issue of December 2014:- Report on activities of IMA Lebanon, 31st FIMA Council Meeting in Indonesia. Report from FIMA Save Vision.