



# نشرة الاتحاد العالمي للجمعيات الطبية الاسلامية

e-newsletter of Federation of Islamic Medical Associations

Volume 63, Issue February 2022



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



In the Name of Allah the Beneficent the Merciful  
Peace and Blessing be Upon the Messenger

Dear Members of the FIMA Family,  
Esteemed Sisters and Brothers,  
Assalamu Alaikum

The beginning of February 2022 marks a few important dates in the world calendar. It is not only the beginning of the second

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## IMANA RELIEF COMPLETES 12 YEARS OF PLASTIC SURGERY SERVICES IN GAZA AND PALESTINE

Dr. Ismail (IMR Chair) and Dr. Khalique Zahir (Past President of IMANA) went to Gaza to operate on more than 50 patients with burns, congenital defects and other abnormalities. Dr. Ismail narrates his historic and most rewarding travelogue and memories of serving the destitute.

“We arrived safe and sound on the night of 21st January; we had dinner at the hotel. Incidentally, the owner was a Syracuse University graduate, he saw my hat and we immediately connected.

Next morning was a free day before we headed to Gaza, we decided to head into Palestine, West Bank and enjoy part of the day in Ramallah. We visited the tomb of Yaser Arafat and visited the Yaser Arafat museum, regardless of how one views him one must appreciate his commitment to the cause of freedom he believed in and spent his entire life serving.

*Continued on Page 4*

## INTERVIEW WITH FIMA PRESIDENT PROF. DR. ABDUL RASHID ABDUL RAHMAN... (BY DR. TANVEER ZUBAIRI)

**Welcome Prof. Rashid! Congratulations on becoming the President of FIMA, it is an honor and equally a huge undertaking & responsibility to head the largest organization of Muslim Physicians worldwide.**

**Can you please introduce yourself, your childhood and early years of life?**

I was born on the 18th of March 1959 in a town called Johor Bahru at the southern tip of Peninsular Malaysia, just across the straits from Singapore. My late father worked in Police department in Singapore working under the then British Police force prior to our independence from Britain. My mother was a housewife. I am second in a family of seven siblings and the eldest son. I received my early education in Singapore and Johor Bahru. I was



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Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman, President, FIMA | Dr. Eka Ginanjar, General Secretary, FIMA

given a scholarship to attend early secondary education at the English College, Johor and then received another scholarship to attend upper secondary school at the Royal Military College, Kuala Lumpur and later I also got a scholarship to attend my pre University Education at the City of Bath Technical College, United Kingdom. I obtained my medical degree (MBCbB) in 1984 followed by a one year housemanship at Sheffield. Despite being offered a Senior House Officer job in Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, I had to return back to Malaysia after my house job because my father in law was unwell and passed away just before I returned home.

**So you didn't complete your postgraduate qualifications due to family issues?**

No, actually once back in Malaysia, I was offered a trainee lecturer post in Internal Medicine at the School of Medical Sciences, University of Science Malaysia (USM), in Penang Malaysia. After passing by MRCP

primary exam in Malaysia, I was given another Federal Scholarship to complete my internal medicine training and to specialize in Clinical Pharmacology at the Nine wells Hospital and Medical School at the University of Dundee, UK. I returned home to Malaysia in 1993 after completing my Membership of both the Royal College of Physicians of UK and Ireland and my PhD in Clinical Pharmacology from the University of Dundee.

**After completion of your education where did you work in Malaysia?**

From 1993 to 1996 I was a lecturer in Internal Medicine and Clinical Pharmacology at the School of Medical Sciences in USM, Kelantan, Malaysia. I was promoted to Associate Professor in 1996 and to full Professor in 2004. At the Medical School, I was Deputy Dean of Research and Post graduate Studies from 1996 to 2002. In 2002, I was appointed Founding Director of the Advanced Medical and Dental Institute, USM Penang until I took

optional retirement in 2005.

**Why did you take an optional retirement from the prestigious Government job?**

The decision to take an early retirement was to fulfill a lifelong ambition together with fellow activists from the Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia to set up a private university and a private hospital dedicated to train doctors and treat patients in a holistic manner along the principles of the Islamic Shariah. Since 2005 till now, I work as a consultant physician at the first Shariah Complaint Private Hospital In Malaysia (An-Nur Specialist Hospital) and a lecturer at the Cyberjaya University College of Medical Sciences (now upgraded to the University of Cyberjaya). I was also a Medical Director of the Hospital and was the founding Vice President of the University.

**How were you introduced to the Muslim medical bodies and an Islamic way of life?**



*(In FIMA council meeting Kampala, Uganda - 2019)*



*(2020 with minister health and DG health at the meeting of "Clinical research Malaysia")*



*(2002, receiving FRCP degree in UK)*



My involvement with Islamic activities started in the University of Sheffield where I was the President of the Islamic Society. I was also the Deputy President of the Dundee University Islamic Society during my post graduate days. Upon my return to Malaysia, I joined the Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia (IMAM) and have been directly involved in IMAM's activities as a committee member since 1996 becoming the President from 2008 to 2012. Since 2009, I was President IMAM until 2012 when I was organizing Chairman of FIMA/IMAM Council and Scientific Convention held in Kuala Lumpur. In 2018, I was awarded with IMAM Life time Achievement award.

**How were you introduced to FIMA activities?**

In 2009 I was elected as FIMA EXCO member and in 2010 was appointment to be Secretary of Consortium of Islamic Medical Colleges (CIMCO). I was later appointed Chairman of CIMCO between 2012 until 2015. Prior to that in 2013, I was elected as General Secretary of FIMA. In 2016, I was appointed by FIMA EXCO to be the Regional Director for FIMA ASEAN and Australasian Region. In 2017, I was appointed into the editorial board of FIMA Yearbook and in the same year help pioneered the establishment of FIMA's journal called the International Journal of Health and Human Sciences.

**Being a Professor of Internal**

**medicine and clinical pharmacology, did you join the professional medical organizations?**

My other involvement in NGO's were as Vice Chairman of Malaysian Medical Association for the state of Kelantan (1997/98), President of the Malaysian Society of Hypertension (1997-2003) and Executive Member of the Asia Pacific Society of Hypertension from 2015 till now.

I was elected as a Fellow to the Royal College of Physician of Ireland, Royal College of Physician of Edinburgh, National Heart Association of Malaysia, ASEAN College of Cardiology, Association of Commonwealth Universities, Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science and Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

**Are you children also following your footsteps by following medical profession and an Islamic way of life?**

It is important that we leave behind a legacy for future generations to emulate as an amaljariah. Alhamdulillah 2 of my 5 offspring are involved in the health profession so are two of my sons in law. One of my daughters is also an activist in IMAM being its Secretary General besides being a lecturer in Family Medicine. My other daughter is a lecture in Clinical Pharmacy and one of my son in law is a neurosurgeon and the other is a Forensic Pathologist.

**How can you define the role of Muslim Physicians towards their obligation to Deen and what is your message for the Muslim Physicians working globally?**

I am thankful to Allah for the opportunity and AMANAH He bestowed upon me through the field of Medicine. As a matter of fact all of us, i.e Health care personnel are a chosen group of people entrusted with special privileges not given to other professions. It is important that this special and chosen status not be wasted with us by being too confined to our personal career development. As a khalifah of Allah on earth we are reminded by Allah in the last verse of surah An An'Am.

“He is the One Who has placed you as successors on earth and elevated some of you in ranks over others, so He may test you with what He has given you.”

It is therefore imperative that as health care professionals we engage ourselves with society at large, without any discrimination based on color, creed or religious bias and bringing mercy to mankind, beyond our official duties, emulating our beloved Prophet (Peace and Blessing be Upon him). The Prophet was sent by Allah Subhanawataalah to bring Mercy to Mankind (Rahmatanlil Al Alamin). To follow the Prophets tradition (Sunnah) is to follow in his footprint. For health care professional, being a member of our Islamic Medical Associations (IMA) opens the door to serve mankind.



*(Receiving Award of excellence in service at An-Nur Hospital, KL*

## REMAINING IMANA RELIEF COMPLETES 12 YEARS OF PLASTIC SURGERY SERVICES IN GAZA AND PALESTINE

We returned back to Jerusalem, only 8.5 miles away which took us over an hour due to checkpoints etc etc, took in the full local experience by taking the bus.

On 23rd we set for Gaza, it was a part of Islamic Medical Association of North America - IMANA Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Mission! In collaboration with our partner PCRf (Palestinian Children's Relief Fund)

My first time in Gaza was in 2009, entering into the strip as the war was ending. Taking care of the wounded and operating for endless hours. Each mission has that one patient or a story that to this day I can recall for every one of my trips, but Gaza 2009 there was the one patient who I've thought about so often over the years; how is he? Is he alive? Did his cancer return? Etc etc.

Abdullah Shawwa was only 4 years old, he wasn't injured by bombings,

gun fire or all else that is used in war. Abdullah had cancer, Wilms tumor (kidney cancer) he was going to be a casualty of the embargo. Unable to leave Gaza and no surgeons in Gaza trained to operate on such. We traveled 5,800 miles from home in 2009 to care for the wounded yet it was Abdullah who changed us all, we all quickly learned those who go unaccounted for as casualties of embargoes. We operated on Abdullah, once again it was God's plan, we had with us on the team Dr. Saeed Akhter who was a urologist and specialized in oncology, removing a tumor the size of a cantaloupe. The next few nights we all took turns caring for Abdullah in the ICU. It was a story picked up by the AP news and the attached pic was on many news papers worldwide.

Alhamdulillah we made it to Gaza, no major issues. Smooth transition from Israel into Gaza. My third time returning; to a land and people who

unfortunately are defined and identified as the world's media chooses to do so. I was here in 2009 my first time during the war and fell in love with its people!!

We went right to work, 50 some patients await to be seen with hopes and aspirations, InshAllah we can help! We arrived to our hotel around 12:15pm; checked in, quick lunch and by 1:30 we were seeing patients in clinic. Our local hosts/partners PCRf had already put together patient list. The next 6 hours we saw 65 patients prepping those who warranted surgery (over 40).

We left Gaza in 2009 promising to return; I was able to return in 2019 ten years later, I asked about Abdullah where is he, is he alive, did he survive the bombings afterwards, did he survive the cancer, did it return. My good friend in Gaza Saleem Fakhri Shaat tried to find his family but to no avail. This year



Saleem found him and surprised me with the news. Ironically January 27th 2009 was the day we operated on him 13 years ago, we went to Abdullah's house and was able to meet with him. He is well, like my son Ibraheem he's 17 years old now, in 11th grade doing well in school and is cancer free. All praise is to the Almighty, we were supposed to of been in Gaza in 2009, if anything it was the prayers of his parents as they desperately tried to get help knowing their child's tumor was growing day by day and God had a plan for us to be in Gaza then. For me it was an emotional visit, I've been blessed to of taken care of thousands of patients here at home and abroad, but Abdullah was the one, left me wondering with no answers. The picture of me in the operating room was taken by the world renown photojournalist Anja Niedringhaus a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist (she was killed in Afghanistan in 2014 covering the war) It's the only pic of those thousands of patients which sits on my desk at home.

AlhumdulilAh I was able to visit Abdullah and his family, his mothers prayers were endless for everyone on the team. I return home now knowing we truly made a difference!!

In the last pic, that's Abdullah now ironically 13 years to the day to the hour, I was with him, caring for him in the operating room and ICU.

I'm grateful to Allah, grateful to my parents Yasmeen Mehr and Irfan M Mehr for teaching us to care for others and most grateful after God to my wife Uzma Shad Mehr for being so supportive, as I have traveled the world doing this work, hugging Abdullah brought a feeling of achievement that no degree, graduation ceremony could ever bring it was a feeling I cannot describe.

Thank you PCRf - Palestine Children's Relief Fund for your amazing work and for allowing us to be a small part of the work you do day in and day out;

24th January was our first day for operating the patients. We operated on 9 patients, from complex scar revisions, syndactyly, massive hemangiomas and cleft lips.

The first pic is of Layman whose 11, her smile and love was infectious, mind you she is deaf. At the age of one she contracted bacterial meningitis, treatment was delayed and to be honest not possible in Gaza. She lost her hearing, regardless she was so happy to talk and joke with us (using sign language) for me bringing into perspective the ability to accept and make the best of what life brings our way. She had webbed feet known as syndactyly, making it difficult to walk. So we operated on her releasing her fused toes and skin grafting her.

We operated on around 29 patients in the next three days to follow and the results were amazing. The operating hours were long and tiring, but we were fresh in morning and set for our operating sessions immediately after Fajr prayers and a quick breakfast.



Wednesday was another fulfilling day, we operated on 11 patients. Some fairly complex cases. We operated on Gufran once again, she was the young girl with congenital ichthyosis a very rare congenital skin disease. In 2019 we created eye lids for her to be able to close her eyes and also freed up her fused fingers; unfortunately her disease is progressive and without the appropriate dermatology care it's always going to be a challenge. We operated on her fused fingers again. It was a moving day as we had several mothers get emotional as we told them everything went well and one of the fathers pictured kissed our hands and thanked God for all the donors and team.

He kept lifting his hands and praying for us, our parents, our grandparents (pic below with him and his son)

As a father myself it's unimaginable that my child has access to the best care, would not have to live his or her life scarred for life, unable to use their hand, or a facial defect which all

would see and look at. While these parents are hopeless!

Cannot give enough kudos to my best of friends Dr. Khalique Zahir we had a 16 year old patient who had developed a chest wall infection eroding away in between her breasts, multiple surgeries resulting in Symmastia, the fusing together of both breasts looking like one.

Imagine your daughter, granddaughter and no hope of surgical correction. Khalique operates on her dissecting a pocket and had brought tissue expanders with him, it will be a staged procedure and yesterday stage one was using tissue expander to help stretch out the fused skin and in 6 months be ready for removal

Of the expander allowing for grafting as a second stage and conforming into normal breasts.

Often it's cases like this which remind you that God has a plan and us being here is just his plan, we are

simply a means.

Thursday was our last day (day 5) in Gaza. We operated on 11 patients, (bringing the total number of patients to 40) all were complex burns, some of the face, the torso, others of the extremities. From young toddlers to late age teenagers, horrific scarred up burns like the pictures I'm sharing.

This was my 5th trip to Palestine and 3rd specifically to Gaza, overall I think it's like no. 26 or 27 for my tally of medical/surgical missions. Each of those dozens of missions have their own unique memories.

Goodbye Palestine, InshAllah we will return soon!! Truly a fulfilling mission with much accomplished (40 surgeries) and work still remains to be done. For now we'll take the small victories.

To all our friends in Gaza and Jerusalem, be well. As we check in into our hotel in Istanbul, you all are all already missed.





A joint venture of PIMA &  
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**LAST DATE FOR ENROLLMENT**

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# CLINICAL RESEARCH SKILL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

**BMJ**  
British  
Medical Journal



Introduction to online research module in collaboration with British Medical Journals (BMJ) and Pfizer Global.

Pakistan Islamic Medical Association (PIMA) is proud to announce online workshops to support and develop research skills among general practitioners and post-graduate trainees across Pakistan.

#### Topics:

1. How to develop and report good research questions
2. Developing and writing protocols
3. Choosing the best study design
4. How to do ethical research
5. How to write a research paper
6. The essentials of running a clinical trial
7. Picking the right journal and getting published
8. Avoiding scientific misconduct

**52 Modules – having 4 credit hours each**

#### Benefits of attending workshop

- At the end of workshop participants will have improved understanding of publishing in international journals
- Participant will get a CME certificate
- Attendees will get upto 75 % discount on publishing in BMJ open access journals

**Registration Fee: The 52 modules registration fee will be funded through a grant to PIMA by Pfizer International & BMJ.**

Organizer:  
CME SECTION  
**PAKISTAN ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

WORKSHOP COORDINATOR  
**DR SHAHMEER KHAN**  
Aga Khan Hospital, Karachi

**LAST DATE FOR ENROLMENT:**

**SUNDAY  
20TH FEB, 2022**

Enrolment for this course will be free but mandatory by clicking the Registration link: [bit.ly/pima\\_workshop](http://bit.ly/pima_workshop)

**PAKISTAN ISLAMIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (PIMA)**

PIMA Secretariat: 12- Shalimar Centre, F-8 Markaz, Islamabad Phone: 051 2261943



# GREEN CRESCENT INDONESIA ANNUAL MEETING

Green Crescent Indonesia, a sister organization of Indonesia IMA held a side event in the FIMA Convention on 22nd-23rd December. In this annual meeting they launched a campaign #DesemBerhenti: Stop Smoking, Start Living which promotes a new life into 2022 without smoke.

In the 2 day event, a workshop for high school students and a public webinar was held, featuring speakers from practitioners and the academia: Dr Hafid Algristian, Dr Era Catur Prasetya, Dr Risky Kusuma, and Dr Hario Megatsari.

Indonesia has a long way to go, the

government has yet to sign the FTCT treaty, and public awareness are still very low. Poverty and malnutrition are closely related to smoking addiction in rural and urban poor areas.



## Annual Meeting Green Crescent Indonesia

In conjunction with 40th Anniversary FIMA Council Meeting

### Stop Smoking, Start Living

Workshop Berhenti Merokok bagi Siswa SMA, Santri dan Umum.  
Serta Launching #DesemBerhenti

Program Kampanye Berhenti Merokok sebagai Resolusi 2022



**Dampak Kesehatan Rokok**  
Hafid Algristian, dr., Sp.KJ., M.H.  
Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Surabaya



**Dampak Ekonomi Rokok**  
Risky Kusuma, Ph.D.  
Universitas Indonesia



**Kebijakan Publik Terkait Rokok**  
Hario Megatsari, S.KM., M.Kes  
Universitas Airlangga

#### Workshop

Rabu, 22 Desember 2021  
13.00 - 15.30 WIB

#### Launching #DesemBerhenti

Kamis, 23 Desember 2021  
12.05 - 12.20 WIB



Link Pendaftaran

[bit.ly/wsberhentimerokok](https://bit.ly/wsberhentimerokok)

CP : Very Arindra 0813 3249 3689

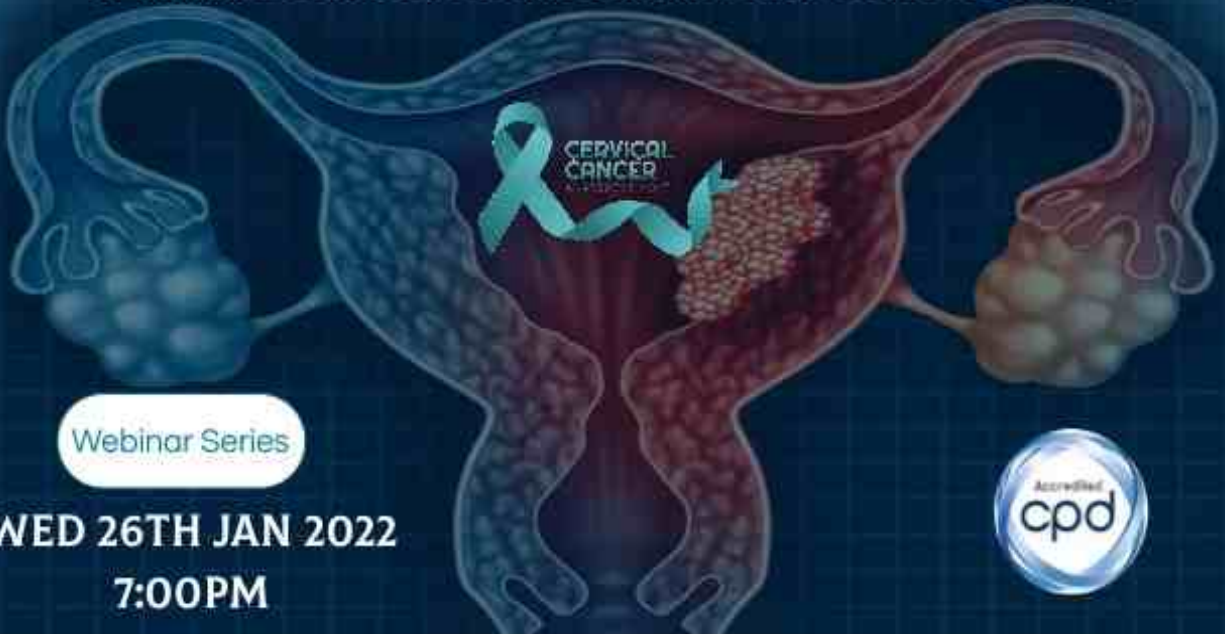
Didukung Oleh :



PKJS-SKSG  
Universitas Indonesia



# KENYA ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS



Webinar Series

WED 26TH JAN 2022  
7:00PM



## Prevention, Early detection & Management of Cervical Cancer



**Dr. Sitna Mwanzi**  
Medical Oncologist  
Aga Khan University  
Hospital, Nairobi



**Dr. Khadija Warfa**  
Gynaecologic Oncologist  
Aga Khan University  
Hospital, Nairobi



**Dr. Rukia Ali**  
Gynaecologist  
Aga Khan Hospital,  
Mombasa

SPEAKERS

MODERATOR



@kammppoffical



Live streaming on facebook

# IMASA BAYTUL NUR PROJECT: A MARVEL

## IMA BAYTUL NUR CARE CENTRE – “HOME AWAY FROM HOME FACILITY”



Baytul Nur, the social responsibility wing of the Islamic Medical Association of South Africa (IMASA), has commenced construction of a Care Centre with an Islamic ethos at its newly acquired premises situated at 22 Browns Grove, Sherwood. The 16 bed facility will provide excellent nursing care in a warm and friendly environment to the frail and elderly.

### OUR SERVICES

- 24 Hour staffing to facilitate planned and unplanned resident needs.
- Medication assistance , monitoring and charting
- Assisting with showering, hygiene, grooming and toileting
- Incontinence care
- Nutritional home – cooked meals and snacks
- Daily housekeeping services
- Exercise and activity programmes
- Personal laundry services
- On site physical , occupational and speech therapy services
- Peace of mind , comfort and privacy
- Post-operative care
- 24 hour security

### CONDITIONS FOR INTAKE

A formal process for applying to the facility will be in place. Assessments will be instituted for resident screening.

**BENEFITS TO THE DONOR**

- This project is an opportunity for the community to earn Sawaab-e-Jaariya for themselves and their family members by contributing to this much needed facility.
- Contributions, large or small will be welcomed.
- The envisaged rooms will be offering naming rights to donors.
- The success of the project is dependent on Lillah public donations and funding from businesses and community members.

• Contributions large and small are welcome and Section 18A tax certificates are available upon request.

• The Trust is a Registered Non-Profit, Public Benefit Section 18A Organization. (NPO – 033-636NPO; PBO No: 930 004 327).

**For more information please contact:**

**Office: 031 209 7838 /**

**Zakiyah Dawood 082 468 7121 /**

**Yasiera M Suliman 082 728 6721 /**

**Fathima Abdulla 082 786 0762**



To officially launch the Care Centre project a “ Sod Turning ” - ceremony was held to on Saturday 05, 2020.

## IMASA BAYTUL NUR PROJECT: A MARVEL



### SENOIR CITIZENS GET TOGETHER

Guest speakers: Dr Shakira Cassim and Sister Asiya Amod



### WINTER WARMTH WITH AL IMDAAD

IMA Baytul Nur partnered with Al Imdaad and handed out blankets, socks, masks, gowns and sanitizers to IMA Baytul beneficiaries.



### COVID 19 RELIEF

Families were assisted with food parcels sponsored by CSN, NMJ, GOG and Al- Imdaad. Vitamins, oximeters, masks and sanitizers were also handed out to those in need.



### WOMEN'S MONTH

Visits to homes in Bonela



### Gift a Granny



### MOBILITY AIDS

Patients are assisted with mobility aids, patient beds, diapers and groceries.

## IMASA BAYTUL NUR PROJECT: A MARVEL



### KZN UNREST-DURBAN RELIEF

Distribution of groceries and food hampers to people affected by looting and unrest in Durban.



### RAMADAAN HAMPER DISTRIBUTION

Over 400 hampers were distributed during Ramadan. This was made possible with donations from Africa Muslim Agency, Caring Sisters Network, Orient Old Boys, NMJ, WCG and private donors.



### HYGIENE PACKS DISTRIBUTION

Small Acts for Sustainability (SAS) NPO donated hygiene packs which were handed out to Baytul Nur clients.



### PLACARD DEMO FOR PALESTINE -

IMA Baytul Nur team held a placard demo in support of our Palestinian brothers and sisters



### PLACARD DEMO

16 Days of activism for no violence against women and children



### IMA BAYTUL NUR MOBILE SOUP KITCHEN

## ADVICE TO MUSLIM COMMUNITIES Intensive Care Unit (ICU) admission

Admission to ICU is distressing for patients and relatives, especially during Covid-19. Therefore, we have set out some simple advice below to help ease communication and comfort.

1

### Why are patients admitted to ICU? What is offered there?

Patients admitted to ICU are very sick. Management focuses on supporting the body's organ systems if they fail, such as the lungs and kidneys, with the aim of allowing the organs time to recover. Common examples include a breathing tube being inserted in the mouth to attach a ventilator, or forms of temporary dialysis. Treatment for the general illness, such as an infection, will also continue.



2

### How do I know if my relative/friend is getting better?

Staff may talk in broad terms. Things change quickly in ICU so general trends over a longer period are used in communication. You may want to know how much support the organs are needing, such as the heart, lungs or kidneys. In general, it is encouraging when the body's systems need less support from ICU.



3

### What can I do from home?

- Have **1 nominated member** of the family to communicate with staff and relay information to others.
- Keep a diary of events to help process the stay in ICU afterwards.



4

### Can I communicate with my loved one?

Yes – many hospitals now allow, when possible, video calls and phone calls, even if patients are sedated.



5

### What support is available to accommodate Islamic needs?

- Muslim chaplains can attend upon request.
- Many hospitals allow a *Quran Cube* to be at patients' bedsides.
- Measures to preserve Islamic modesty can be requested, including hijab.



6

### What if they become more ill?

Critical illness takes its toll on our bodies, with those who survive often unable to recover to their original activity levels, sometimes with long-term needs. Often, despite the best efforts of staff, patients can deteriorate and die.

**Speak to your loved one.** Discuss, before admission if possible, what would be important to them if ICU therapy doesn't work or is difficult to tolerate. This may include where they want to be and who is with them.



BRITISH ISLAMIC  
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
v1 Dec 21

إِنَّ مَعَ الْعُسْرِ يُسْرًا

**"Indeed, with every hardship comes ease"**

Surah 94: Verse 6, The Holy Qur'an

[W] [www.britishima.org](http://www.britishima.org) [E] [covid@britishima.org](mailto:covid@britishima.org)

### Advice to the Muslim community regarding Intensive Care admission

Sadly, many members of the Muslim community have experienced an admission to Intensive Care, either as

a patient, relative, or friend.

Doctors from a range of relevant specialties at BIMA have given advice as to help understand and prepare for this scenario.

May Allah keep us healthy and give patience and strength to all those affected by ill health.

<https://www.britishima.org/>

## REMAINING MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

month of 2022 of the *Masehi* calendar, it is also the beginning of the seventh month of the Islamic calendar, the month of *Rajab* of 1443 *Hijrah*. In a Hadith narrated by Anas (May Allah be Please with him), the Prophet (Peace and Blessing be Upon him) said "Oh Allah, bless us in our *Rajab* and *Shaaban* for they deliver us into *Ramadhan*". The hadith although it has weakness in its chain, shows that it is permissible to ask Allah to prolong our lives to a more blessed time (*Ramadhan*), so that we can perform good deeds during that special month. May the advent this month make us more focus and prepare ourselves for *Ramadhan*.

The 1<sup>st</sup> of February is also the beginning of the Lunar New Year celebrated by nearly 2 billion Chinese worldwide. It is important to remember that Islam reached China during the time of the prophet via a few *sahabah* including *Saad ibn Abi Waqqas* whose grave is now in Quanzhou in southern China. By modest estimates, there are around 40 million Muslims in mainland China. The greatest concentration of Muslims are in Xinjiang, home of the ethnic Uyghur, with an estimated population of 12 million. I had the pleasure to give a lecture in the capital of Xinjiang, Urumqi in 2017, under the invitation of the Chinese Hypertension League and the International Society of Hypertension/ Asia Pacific Society of Hypertension where I met a few Uighur Muslims doctors and informally introduced FIMA to a few casual contacts.

It was with grave concern that the British Medical Journal in their January 17<sup>th</sup> issue published an

article entitled "Medical involvement in crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, China". The article is a conclusion made by the 'the peoples tribunal' of December 2021, based in the United Kingdom. What is so disturbing was when the article alleged that "the Chinese government systematically deployed medical professionals, medical skills, and medical technologies in pursuit of these crime". The Chinese government not unexpectedly has denounced the tribunal and those involved with it. While FIMA is strictly apolitical, focusing our efforts on global education and humanitarian activities and services, we sincerely pray that what was written in the article was not true. We sincerely believe that doctors involvements, if any, was not out of their free will or volition. Doctors the world over are guided by a strict code of conduct and ethical norms which we believe doctors in China will abide by.

To Allah we supplicate and pray that the health profession through its professionals remain steadfast in discharging their responsibilities for the common good of mankind.



Walaikum Salam  
**Prof. Dr. Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman**  
President, FIMA

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[www.fimaweb.net](http://www.fimaweb.net)