



APPNA

NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

WHAT A SUMMER 'T WAS!

Ussalaam-o-'aalaekom. Michigan witnessed another gala event of the Association. The presence of such a large number of members with their families is a testimonial to the efforts of APPNA for providing a platform for multitude of activities. Swelling crowds with jubilant faces are living proof of an enthusiastic, vibrant and growing organization, indeed!

Increasing participation gives encouragement to the officers and local host committee, but it also taxes the deepest recesses of their brains to plan activities, worthy of your expectations while not overlooking conflicting voices: Why can't we have reserve seating? Who asked for reserve seating? CME program is a must. Forget it, it is a social event. There should be no speeches, giving awards is a waste of time, so on and so forth.

Diversity of views is an asset as I said in my address (muffled by the noise of conversation at banquet tables) but majority prevails in a system of democracy.

This is the first time that there were no lines at APPNA registration area. Executive Council meetings on Thursday and Sunday and General Body meeting on Saturday, all started and ended on time. Total time for speeches at Saturday night banquet was merely 39 minutes and for awards prior to music was 19 minutes and thirty-eight seconds. This is peanuts (as somebody said) compared to music program lasting from 11 PM to 4 AM.

I must congratulate Dr. Raana Akbar and her local Host Committee, Dr. Ghaus Malik, Dr. Waheed Akbar, Dr. Zafar Mahmud, Dr. Ihsan-ul-Haq, Dr. Nighat Khan, Dr. Nigar Husain, Dr. Amjad Soofi, Dr. Zaheer Ahmad and Raufi Mussani for arranging a splendid meeting.

My special thanks to Assad Malik, Dr. Hanif Peracha and Dr. M. Khalid Riaz who worked till 3 AM every night, while others were enjoying sleep. Thanks are also due to central office secretaries, Denise, Nighat, all the secretaries from other physicians offices and behind the scene helpers, Dr. Riaz Akhtar, Dr. Nasir Rana, members of SAYA, CAPPNA and Alliance Group. Keeping in mind "Learn from past and plan for future" a strategic planning retreat is being held along with the fall Executive Council meeting at Hyatt, New Orleans, October 4, 5, and 6, 1996, and everyone is welcomed to attend. Start making plans to attend the winter meeting from December 16th to 18th at Multan. Dr. Ashiq Pervez, Dr. Shabbir Safdar and Nishtar alumni have assured me that this will be a memorable occasion in an ancient city, where demise of Alexander the Great started.

Khodaa- Haafiz!

- M. Mushtaq Sharif, M.D.

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"Human Rights," Rhetoric, and Rationality

Khalid J. Awan, FPAMS

Bismillaahir Ruhmaanir Raheem. NuhmodoHo wa nosullee 'ala RasoolleHil kareem.

AN EVENT, INDEED, was the Summer Meeting; painstakingly planned, teeming in attendance, and glowing in success. And handsomely deserved are the laurels with which President Sharif has crowned its organizers in his message. His keen and honest eye also didn't fail to take note of the grimaces and grunts of those members who, exercising their democratic right, saw certain APPNA activities in a different shade. Admitting the value of such diversity, he has expressed a sincere willingness to hear the differing voices for the Association's future direction; and has, thereby, astutely hit the ball in the court of dissenters. It's entirely upto them now to put to test the democratic convictions of the leadership by communicating their will and views to the President in a direct note to him, or through the Letters to the Editor section of the *Newsletter*.

At this meeting, the "human rights" issue dominated the podium, and Asma Jahangir was its fiery proponent from Pakistan. Her cause is good, for this she deserves admiration; her style is daring, for this her dedication should be held high; her generally impressive speeches contained some statements that nowadays also are deceptive tools in the hands of western anti-Islamic propagandists, for this her views invite an unbiased analysis. "If you belong to a minority," she thundered, for instance, "it is most difficult to live in Pakistan." She further mentioned, among other things, "hijab" in terms not unlike the ludicrous western tones that maliciously paint it as a way of woman subjugation.

Would some smart "Human Rights" comrade or a western freedom pundit enlighten the world about that thing noble Mother Teresa and her fellow workers are constantly clad in from head to toe? What is it and what's the reason for it's use? O, a head cover that signifies certain religious beliefs, you say! My God! a "hijab!" Run! Mother Teresa before "Human Rights" declares you a subjugated Muslim woman, and demands you surrender your Nobel Prize."

When a skilled speaker begins to spew forth oratory dripping with passion and persuasiveness, one or more of the motives that underlie the fiery rhetoric are: true commitment to one's cause, public manipulation for personal and cliquish gains, or incitement of sentiment against one's opponents. If an issue is being accorded an importance much beyond its true perch, or if a universal problem is being highlighted in terms of only a few, one is justified in questioning either the wisdom or the motives of what peals forth from the podium.

Maulanaa Roomi tells of a man who on seeing an emaciated and weary laborer asked him, "What has made you so undernourished and tired?"

"Ghee (butter)," quipped back the laborer.

"Ghee?" the man was flabbergasted, "ghee is supposed to fatten those who eat it, how could it leave you so scrawny?"

"Yes, *ghee* fattens those who eat it," said the laborer wistfully, " but I never get it to eat, I just haul its heavy loads on my back all day to the rich, who pay me barely enough wages to pay for some dry bread that I wet in water to swallow."¹

The fate of our masses today is not any better than that of the laborer of this parable. The UNDP Human Development Report of this year says about Pakistan (*Pakistan Link*, August 2, 1996): "61 percent of the country's population lacks the health, education and nourishment needed to climb out of poverty and its income poverty level...and the gap between the rich and poor is widening." Does it not defy rationality to defame the beliefs and traditions of a nation for not giving its minorities everything they seek when its more than two-thirds majority cannot even feed and educate itself. And what humane and defensible reasoning would prompt the most prosperous expatriate segment of a suffering nation to teach its youth that their roots are "a society that so often without reason and without remorse usurps and trembles [sic] the rights of its own citizens?"² Lord! how we hold big bashes with, and lend our eager ears, and give our places of honor to those who are responsible for corruption and destitution in our motherland, and then so casually pass the blame on to her victimized "society."

No, not Pakistan, nor her "society," nor its ideology and traditions are responsible for the present painfully sad state. Islaam—and we speak here not of Islaam of the ignorant mollah, we are speaking here of Islaam of Mohammad (SulAllaaho a'alaehi wa sullum)—is the life ideology of this "society." The ideology that, unlike any other religious or political doctrine ever conceived, delivers in detail the Rights of God and the Rights of People in a single package, demanding, too, that the latter form the real foundation of societal existence. An unprejudiced peering at history would attest that no other nation and no other life philosophy has ever realized the essence of humanity better. And those who will, are welcome to take this claim as a challenge.

Hypocritical and heinous is to blame on ideology what is the result of abject poverty, rampant illiteracy, relentless ill health, and unending exploitation from within and without, all brought on by the corrupt to the core leaders and public officials. Said Cicero,³ about such public officials: "The whole sinful and pestilential gang...ought to be cast out from human society. For when limbs have lost their life-blood and vital energy, their amputation may follow. That is precisely how those ferocious, bestial monsters in human form ought to be severed from the body of mankind."³

Rid then my country, O prophets of "Human Rights," of her corrupt trustees who are stripping and are letting it be stripped by the thieving outsiders of all her substance and soul.

The fashion today also is for "Human Rights" to target the Islamic ideology and traditions in the developing Muslim nations. Reports an author in the latest issue of *National Geographic*:

"Today 52 percent of Gaza's population is under the age of 14.... In Shati camp I visited the al-Abed family...., whose eight kids sleep in one room." The accompanying photograph on the preceding page shows eight children sleeping widthwise in a single bed, not unlike sardines in a tin box.⁴

More than half the population made up of kids? Who is responsible for this? Why don't we hear the cries of horror against the perpetrator? Where are the embargos

by West against her? Where are Pressler Amendments targeting her? Where is the western media uproar?

Does this not lay bare the double-standards of "Human Rights"? To focus selectively and segmentally on the spectrum of a universal human concern is like lighting a kitchen fire that seemingly is to cook but in fact is intended to burn down the house.

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☆☆☆

SAJJAD AT DETROIT

Khalid J. Awan, FPAMS

Mr. Wasim Sajjad, Chairman of the Pakistan Senate, was the invited speaker at the APPNA Summer Meeting in Dearborn on August 13, 1996. He spoke in a fashion that was impressive in clarity and focused on issues that are important for homeland, for international community, and for US-Pakistan relations. After a most gracious and witty expression of thanks to the Pakistani-American physicians for inviting him, he praised their valuable contributions to Pakistan. I am, he then made clear, for peace in the region, free market economy, and a nuclear-free South Asia.

Reminding the audience, which included US Congressman Bill Paxon, of Pakistan's standing by the United States at many very critical moments in recent history, such as helping the Kissinger's mission to China, permitting U-2 flights over Russia from its soil, all-out cooperation in fighting the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and bringing down communism. All at great risks to us, he said, but we do not wish to dwell on them, for the past is past, and we did what we did to honor our mutual friendship and for peace in the world. However, what distresses us, he added referring to the Pressler Amendment, is when the US applies a different yardstick for Pakistan in making her foreign policy. As a legal expert I can declare unequivocally that under her Bill of Rights and the Constitution, the US could not ever implement, or even create such a law within its borders for any single state, not even a single citizen. It's unworthy, it's discriminatory. If it were a law created domestically in the US, it would have been struck down as soon as it was passed. We realize US wishes to have peaceful relations with India, and we have no objection to it, for we ourselves desire similar relations with India, but what is baffling is that India has not rolled back, not even put on hold, its aggressive nuclear development. In fact, according to the reports of CIA itself, India exploded a nuclear device a few years ago, and now has enough active nuclear material to construct at least 100 nuclear bombs. CIA also said that by year 2000, India will be in a position to make missiles capable of hitting targets in the US itself. I ask what would America have us do if our geographical locations and our power statuses were reversed. "We honor and value our friendship with US, but we cannot, and will not compromise the security of our country, no matter which party holds the reigns of power in Pakistan," he declared to a resounding applause.

Speaking of moral deterioration and paucity of personal safety at home, he said, "The system has been twisted much beyond what you might expect in favor of whichever party controls the government, which has totally destroyed the essence of democracy and mushroomed corruption even in the elected governments." "However, let's not forget," he urged hope, "excepting nine early years between 1947 and 1958, we have not had constitutional dispensation in Pakistan, the rest of the time we remained under dictatorships or despotic rule. But we are making progress, though at unacceptably slow pace. Since 1985, we have been under the constitutional dispensation, and I hope and pray that we keep progressing in the right direction. In the legislative, we have introduced the new committee system. In the past, all the committee chairs used to be government appointed ministers, heavily tilting the balance of power in favor of the governing political party and, hence, leading to corruption and the concentration of power in the hands of a few without any accountability. It is not going to be so now. However, most needed is an effective mechanism of checks and balances, and the power must be spread among various branches. This means the strengthening of the national institutions, and foremost here is that judiciary must be made totally independent."

Taking the UNO to task on Kashmir, he said, that there is no fairness in the international order. The UNO passes one resolution in a few weeks for the Persian Gulf, and there descend armed forces of 26 nations to implement it within days; the UNO passes another resolution about Kashmir, with signatories including the opposing nations, and decades later it still sits totally ignored on the UNO shelves. So, Pakistan is a victim of corruption at home and victim of corruption abroad, but what we must deal with immediately is the corruption at home. Then turning to the panel desk voiced a challenge, "I am surrounded here by the people of the current government wielding all the power there is in Pakistan; let's hear what plans they have to stop and eradicate corruption in Pakistan." ○○○

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(We consider all views for publication, if yours are not here, no one wrote them to us. The opinions expressed in the Newsletter, however, are solely of the writers, and should not be construed as that of APPNA. - Editor)

Some Ideologic Concerns

EDITOR:

Ussalaam-o-a'alaekom. The speeches of Asma Jahangir at the Pak-Pac meeting and the APPNA banquet were bold, but controversial and divisive. She may think she is the most devoted spokesperson for the minorities in Pakistan, but her views and aspirations are not of a neutral reformer. Her insinuation that Islam does not give rights to women is an echo of the nefarious western propaganda schemes designed to disenchant Muslims about their philosophy. It is stretched, banal, and far from the truth, just as is the propagandist western view that every Muslim is a terrorist and fundamentalist, whatever that is.

If APPNA invites speakers like Asma Jahangir then the membership has a right to know who makes these decisions. Our leadership should know that though our APPNA constitution may not have spelled out what role Islamic philosophy should play in our activities, but Pakistan's Constitution certainly has. And as Pakistani-American physicians, we should keep that truth in mind.

Another issue that should be granted careful and full consideration by the organizers is an individual's right to choose. At the SAYA dinner, children of my two friends wanted to know if the meat being served was "Halal," but no one, including the servers and the lady in charge, knew it for a fact. Instead of creating a scene, those children quietly set aside the meals and munched just on greens. It's awful that after having paid for dinner, they were not given the food of their choice. Even airlines honor individual food choices, no matter if it happens to be just one passenger in a full plane. It is the right of those children to demand "Halal", and it is both moral and legal obligation of the organizers to honor it.

A. Rashid Piracha, M.D.
Princeton, WV



Setting an Example for Service

EDITOR:

Ussalaam-o-a'alaekom. I want to congratulate the organizers of the 1996 Annual Summer Meeting in Dearborn, MI. It excelled in many respects, but a lack of participation from younger Pakistani physicians was quite obvious. At a time when according to AMA figures nearly 3,000 new Pakistani physicians have entered into training programs since 1990, it is unfortunate that APPNA has been lax in attracting a significant number of them.

APPNA's previous efforts have not been successful at reaching out to this vast source for the future of our organization. We in the Northeast region are trying an innovative "one to one reach out" campaign to contact them. In Boston, twenty-five new resident members joined within one week after such a campaign. In New York City, which has about 400 Pakistani resident physicians at this time, we have also launched an aggressive similar campaign of small dinner meetings in different areas of the city, and more than 100 contacted residents are in the process of applying for membership. The greatest misconception among younger physicians is that APPNA is an "elitist club." This can only be corrected by the efforts of senior and well established members reaching out personally and explaining the reality of APPNA's goals and functions.

I would like to encourage existing APPNA members to realize that the future of our organization is the younger generation, and that without their active involvement, in the next decade, APPNA may die its natural death, if young blood is not infused. We all have this responsibility for the sake of preserving our identity. To keep the flame alive we must make individual personal efforts as these will have a greater impact. I hope that we can ignite the kind of enthusiasm the "forefathers" of the organization did in its early history. Then and only then can we truly represent the Pakistani Physician community.

Saeed A. Bajwa, M.D.
Johnson City, N Y

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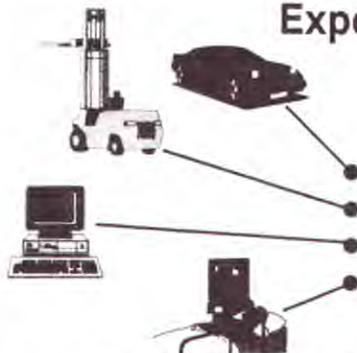
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

THE SUMMER MEETING LOCAL HOST COMMITTEE or THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

Raana W. Akbar, M.D., Chairperson

Dedicated to those of you who enjoyed the weekend with us; to those of you who missed the convention and wished they were with us; and to those of you who have never attended one. The reveille at the beginning of this article insistently calls "Come, join APPNA."

I was looking dubiously at the six lethal looking audio-visual aids (commonly known in the vernacular as walkie-talkies) being handed over to me. "Never fear, Dear!" consoled Dr. Nigar Hussain of the later on 'Help-Me Desk' fame. "Thaan-e-daars are never scared," interjected Dr. Nighat Khan, senior to junior. Thus comforted, we all started seriously fiddling with the knobs. For a little while, all was mayhem. We spoke at once - the Pakistani habit of interrupting each other. Some of us tried to listen through the mouthpiece and some of us importantly continued to carry a walkie-talkie without ever turning it on. Suddenly, however, we were in business. "Dr. Ehsaan-ul-Haq, Nigar's voice would float out. "An exhibitor is searching the lobby for a coat rack." " Dr. Raaaana," Nighat would crackle. "Hukm Hazoor," I would crackle back louder. "Not you, dear!" I could feel Nigar grinning over the walkie-talkie. "It's the other Dr. Raaaana." "Yes Ladies," Colonel Dr. Nasir-uddin Rana would smartly respond, and then finally a crescendo would occur. "Auntie Raana, I need you desperately at the registration desk," Asad Malik would request. "Dr. Akbar to Convention Services," Barbara S., the Convention Manager, would warble. "Dr. Raana, would you finalize the number for the CME lunch?" Lori Metz, Catering Services, would insist. "Raana Behn, the first of the six different listed Mohammad Khan's have arrived, how do we identify who is who?" Dr. Peracha would query. "The SAYA credit card terminal is not working," Denise would inform ominously, "The Xerox machine has not arrived, and this list is an unidentified object." Dr. Arif Muslim accosted me "Raana, stop talking on this walkie-talkie, Northwest Airline is backed up, the kulfi cannot be delivered to the hotel." Dr. Zafar Mahmud tapped my shoulder, "The Music Mela Group somehow ended up in Toronto last night, and they have been checked out of their hotel," "Khalid Bhai, do you hear me?" I needed help. " Raana BiBi, I always hear you." I looked unbelievably at the walkie-talkie. The Cardinal had responded! Help was on its way. Dr. Arif Muslim affirmed solemnly, "I will not let the Kulfi melt." Dr. Zafar Mahmud smiled Buddha-like benevolently, "I have a back-up plan." "I am a devout Muslim," I told myself crossly, "I do not believe in a Guardian Angel."

Astonishingly, everything fell in place. The Alliance dinner was a resounding success. The CME lecture theater was full on both days (of course, the fire alarm set by one of our very considerate, well-behaved children helped all of us out of bed early Saturday morning), the Jummah khutba was an elegant exposition on the development of Islamic thought. The most delightful event, however was the competition for the Quran'ic recitation. "This is an APPNA meeting, not an ISNA gathering. Auntie, Give up!" said Asad, my right hand, whose advise I trusted implicitly in all matters, otherwise. He was so wrong! There was standing room only- cute eight to ten year old children standing inline with their hearts in their eyes. There were so many of them, and they did so well, that the judges were transported. Everyone of them was a winner. The SAYA directory was well appreciated. The fashion show glittered and doubled its attendance from last year. The SAYA/CAPPNA seminar succeeded beyond all expectations. The *kulfi* was a connoisseur's dream. The entertainment program was jam-packed on both days until early morning. Dr. Zafar Mahmud had, on a very short notice, performed the impossible. Dr. Riaz Chaudhry, President KEMCAANA, was kind enough to let Tahira Syed perform on Saturday night instead of the scheduled Alumni Entertainment. Who could ever forget Ustad Irshad Ali Khan lost in his performance of Raga Malkauns, communicating with his sitaar early Sunday morning, until suddenly his mizrab broke? Asma Jahangir, Yvonne Haddad, Khalid Bin Saeed and Waseem Sajjad brought their own special radiance to this meeting. Members though, consistently continued to converse through all the speeches, presentations, awards and even through the standing ovations. Dr. Haddad expressed her perturbation, Barbara S, the convention manager had never seen anything like it and two of the five Sues (all of them banquet managers) asked me, "Do your people never listen? Is this a cultural thing?"

On a more serious note, the Host Committee is still in the process of compiling all the bills and expenses for the meeting. **A complete report will be presented in New Orleans, as well as the Fall issue of the APPNA Newsletter.** Following is a brief list of some of our recommendations:

1. A Fund Raising Committee should be formed expressly for the Summer Meeting comprising of physicians from our coterie of academicians who could approach the central offices of Pharmaceutical Companies for educational grants, etc.
2. A Housing Bureau or a Central Clearing House should be planned for the next meeting so that APPNA, rather than the hotel should have control over the registration process and the cancelled block of rooms.
3. The Assigned Seating worked to a large extent for the banquet and can only improve. Assigned seating for the entertainment program got aborted and probably should not be tried in its present format.
4. The evening program during the banquet must be abbreviated, the sound system must be approved, the designated master of ceremonies from the Executive Council must be given responsibility for the success of a tightly directed program.

■■■

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APPNA ALLIANCE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Razia Chishti, President

Ussalam-o-a'alaekom. It was great to see many of you at the Detroit meeting. I truly feel that those of us who have become active members since the St. Louis meeting last year have made many new friends, and definitely have found more purpose in attending the annual meeting. I strongly urge every one of you to become members and to take an active role.

The Alliance had arranged some excellent events at the Detroit meeting, which were enjoyed by all. The Alliance host committee under the guidance of Raufi Mussani did a wonderful job, and they worked extremely hard.

The dinner at Grosselle Country Club was well attended, and Dr. Zeenat Anwar gave an excellent speech on the several problems that the Pakistani-Americans, especially the youth, are facing. (See next page)

The luncheon on Saturday was attended by about a hundred people. The speaker Dr. Yvonne Haddad gave an enlightening talk on challenges women will face in the next century.

Dr. Khalid Riaz made a presentation on an existing literacy program in Pakistan in which some APPNA members are seriously involved. The Alliance at one of its general body meetings voted to support this literacy program as one of its major projects, and we will present it to the APPNA Executive Council for their approval.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard in making the Alliance programs successful.

General Body Meeting

At the general body meeting it was voted to accept the constitution presented to the Alliance. A two-year term for the alliance executive was approved. It was felt that it would be an effective period to implement programs and ideas. It was also proposed and accepted by the APPNA Executive that to make it easier to register an option for joining the Alliance would be added to the main APPNA membership form.

Elections

At present the Alliance has 60 members, making it possible to have elections. For the upcoming year, the APPNA President will appoint a president for the Alliance. Any spouse of an APPNA member wishing to become a member of the Alliance for this year should send a check for \$20.00 made out to APPNA Alliance to Naheed Arshad, 10045 North Waterleaf Drive, Mequon, WI 53092.

Alliance Projects

As many of you are aware, the Alliance is involved in the very important area of helping our young adults find spouses. There has been favorable response to this service. If you are interested in using this service, please send particulars to Yasim Sharazi and Firdous Sharif. All information will be held in strictest of confidence. The Alliance is also in the process of producing a cookbook. We really want to move this project along, so hurry up. It would be nice to see which state has the best recipes. The recipes should be mailed to: Mrs. Firdous Sharif, 222 Farnham, Carol Stream, IL 60187, Telephone (708) 653-1446.

Your Input and Comments

If you have any ideas, comments, or suggestions, and would like to share them with other members, please send them to the Alliance Editor, Naheed Arshad, 10045 North Waterleaf Drive, Mequon, WI 53092, Telephone (414) 241-0949, Fax (414) 647-1511.



BUT WE ARE AMERICANS NOW! (Our Youth, Our Families, Our Future)

Zeenat Anwar, M.D.

Muslim communities have existed over the years as a minority in many societies ranging from China to Burma, to India, to Eastern Europe, and to Central Asia. Over the centuries, people have managed to live an Islamic life in the face of formidable challenges. They have preserved their Islamic identity and distinct culture.

The wave of Pakistani immigrants to the United States began in the mid to late sixties. These immigrants, in their late twenties and early thirties, were mostly of a middle-class background. They entered competitive fields in medicine, law and engineering. Most came from families that were large and socially conservative, and entered the US with moral and social values imbued by religion and society.

The first decade in the US was spent by adapting to a new and liberal environment. Professions were demanding and examinations had to be passed. Children were born and social contacts were established both within and outside the profession. "The need to be together and feel together" was expressed by every home and every individual.

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Children were taught that they were Muslims and that they had roots in Pakistan. There were no Islamic Centers at that time. Children were told in simple terms that our social habits were different from native-born Americans. Strictly speaking, our children learned that we did not drink alcohol or eat pork. We taught them to speak and understand Urdu, and admonished them when they did not respond in Urdu. There was a romance and mystique about our Pakistani origin.

Every vacation we took our children back to Pakistan, and while as adults we recharged our social and cultural values, the new generation was oriented to Pakistani culture by their grandparents.

The children are now entering middle or high school, some are entering or have even finished college. They mingle with children who are not of their complexion and whose social behaviors are different: American children are uninhibited, Pakistani children are wary. American youth are independent, Pakistani youngsters are guided by their parents. American kids have no inhibitions with the opposite sex, our kids are more held back. Any attempt to change results in confusion and a guilt complex. Of course, a child is also influenced by his own intelligence and temperament, which mold his character and personality.

Most, if not all, in of our generation have the "homing tendency," and at some time or another have expressed intentions of returning to Pakistan. For some it was a strong urge, but the majority held their love for Pakistan as a distant romantic past. The USA was going to be their permanent home where their children were going to grow up as the first generation of Pakistani-Americans.

We possess nice homes, flashy cars, and trendy clothes. We vacation in Europe and have expensive hobbies. We are pleased with what we have achieved in our material wealth, and, of course, we have worked hard for it. But it is natural for our children not to feel empathy for our struggle; they were not part of it. From the time they learned to talk, they have shared our material wealth and could not imagine life without it.

What has this gush of wealth done to us? Some have the gift of absorbing it naturally, comfortably, and sensibly; for some, "more is always better." In the process of their obsession, they have no time to spend with their family, and Eastern-male chauvinism reaches its height. Relationships are weakened, weakened between spouses, between parent and child, between friends and colleagues. There are no more role models; there is no more idealism; and, most importantly, the gap between the parent and the child increases. They begin to be afraid of each other, suspicious of each other. They can no longer communicate. The child decides his next course, and he or she rebels; society sees this rebellion in the form of unusual apparel and physical appearance, or in the form of drug, alcohol, or simple disobedience.

In our society where marriage is considered a normal obligation, many parents believe that it might provide a solution. Marriage is arranged. Either for this reason, or for fear of a son or daughter marrying a non-Muslim. The number of marriages with non-Muslim natives is on the rise. It is a big concern, a very serious concern, indeed. If we do not find a solution to this practice now, it is possible that the future generations will be lost! We are already seeing too many divorces and separations. Because of a lack of time I am not going to comment on the many happily married couples, but what went wrong with the unsuccessful marriages? What could we have done different?

(The Alliance intends to submit the rest of this article in the future. -Editor)



TROUBLE AHEAD FOR IMGs

Busharat Ahmad, MD

In the next few months, expect that there will be increased discussion of and mounting pressure to solve the problems of a projected surplus of physicians in America by proposals to place restrictions on international medical graduates (IMGs). This comes at a time when IMGs continue to be susceptible to summary deselection from managed care plans and find it increasingly difficult to identify reasonable practice opportunities. There is little doubt that the pressure on IMGs will continue, and will intensify.

Recent Studies Offer Conflicting Recommendations

A recent report by the Pew Charitable Trust's Health Professions Commission called for closing one of five U.S. medical schools and reducing the number of doctors, nurses, and pharmacists. The report also included a proposal to eliminate Medicare funding of residency positions for IMGs.

Another report, released by a committee of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) called for an immediate cutback in federally funded residencies, urged that the remaining slots go to U.S. medical school graduates, and proposed special relief for IMG-intensive hospitals. This report, unlike the Pew report, did not call for reducing U.S. enrollments for closing U.S. medical schools.

The Association of American Medical Schools (AAMC) agreed with the notion that U.S. medical schools should not be closed. Their response also went on to say that IMGs do not enter underserved rural areas any more frequently

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than do U.S. graduates. It would appear that the AAMC view will continue to be slanted toward the elimination of IMGs from the graduate medical education pool, with slots available only to U.S. graduates.

The government's Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME) was the first to call for a reduction in residency positions to 110% of 1995 levels. It has since backed away somewhat from that position but its legacy is that the suggested percentage reduction continues to appear with great frequency. It is important to note, however, that COGME now accepts the fact that the census figures it used and which served as an original basis for their report were flawed. To compound matters, the Pew Commission forecasts appear to have incorrectly applied some of the COGME data.

COGME, through a special work group, has begun a study of immigration policies as they affect the overall physician workforce, and especially IMGs. The American Medical Association's IMG Caucus Chair recently offered the IMG viewpoint to this work group and their findings and recommendations should be available soon.

IMG RESIDENTS OUTSHINE U.S. GRADS

Scores of internal medicine's in-training exams in 1995 show an edge to those who went to foreign medical schools

	Mean Scores of U.S. Graduates	Mean Scores of IMGs
PGY-1	60.0	61.9
PGY-2	65.9	66.7
PGY-3	69.2	70.7

Source: National Board of Medical Examiners, 1996

FROM: *Physicians Weekly*
Highlights and Analysis of Medical News
August 19, 1996 Vol XIII, No 81

- Contributed by Waheed Akbar, M.D.

The AMA position on these various reports is that a National Consensus Conference on Physician Workforce should be convened to look at all aspects of physician's needs in the future and develop a consensus plan that will attempt to achieve a result which is best for all U.S. physicians and their patients. It has responded that the Pew report does not adequately acknowledge the IMG presence that is needed to provide adequate care, especially for the indigent. To the IOM Report, the AMA concluded that attempting to control the number of physicians on a national level is neither practical nor doable. The major decisions are made by department heads of medical schools and directors of residency programs. Again, what is needed is a thorough review of physician needs based on the best and most complete data available.

IMG Community Divided

It is little wonder then, with all of these pressures, that the IMG community is somewhat divided in its reactions. There are those who agree that something must be done about the rapid increase in the physical population. In the last 20 years, the number of doctors has grown at 1.5 times the rate of the general population, from 150 doctors per 100,000 in the 1970's to 245 per 100,000 in 1992. It is also a fact that during that same period some 75% of IMGs completed their residency training and entered practice in the U.S.

On the other hand, many IMGs believe that there should be no restrictions placed on residency selection. Two-tiered systems, voucher programs, and all other methods of selection that give preference to U.S. medical graduates denies the notion that selection should be determined by merit only and not by any other means, in order to preserve and enhance the quality of the U.S. health care system. They believe that workforce changes should rely on market forces rather than on any quotas or formula using guess work as the basis for projections for the needs of the future.

Workforce Planning Essential to the Future of IMGs

It is becoming absolutely essential that there be a comprehensive study of workforce needs in the future. The time for action is now, given Medicare budget realities, the need to assure that health care needs in underserved (e.g., inner city, rural) areas are met, and to train physicians for the future. ■ (To be continued in future issues. -Editor)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Come Join Us For An Exciting Meeting in Multan **NEW FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE** 18th Annual APPNA Meeting December 16th, 17th, and 18th

- Exciting new developments in medicine
 - State of the art lectures
- SHAFI MEMORIAL LECTURE
 - Seminars
 - Workshops
- Sightseeing trips and shopping
 - Ladies' Program.
- Excellent accommodations at the new Holiday Inn (4 star - ★★★★★)
- THREE nights of dinner and entertainment

■ Registration Form and other details are enclosed with this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Sponsored By

Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America
Nishtar Medical College
Nishtar Alumni Association

For Details, Please Call

APPNA Office: Telephone: (708) 968-8585 - Fax (708) 968-8677
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Zahid Butt: Telephone (301)796-5550
Shaukat Khan: Telephone (610)826-4420 - Fax (610)826-6082
Abdul Rauf: Telephone (202)483-4728 - Fax (202)462-8341

TENTATIVE AGENDA of FALL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 4, 5, 6, 1996

Thursday, October 3, 1996

8:00 p.m.: Dinner at Dr. Suleman's residence. Transportation is available from hotel to the residence

Friday, October 4, 1996

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon: APPNA Business Meeting and Strategic Planning

12:00: Noon - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch

1:00 p.m.:2:15 p.m.: Jum'aaah Prayer. Transportation provided to guests to *MUSJID ABU-BAKR AL-SIDDIQ*

2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: APPNA Business Meeting

6:30 p.m.: Mississippi River cruise and Pakistani cuisine

Saturday, October 5, 1996

8:00 a.m. - 12:00: Noon APPNA Business Meeting

12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m.: Lunch, *Zuhr* prayer, Alumni Meetings

2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.: APPNA Business Meeting

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.: CME Dinner Meeting at the Hyatt Regency Hotel (Cajun and Pakistani cuisines)

9:00 p.m. onward Entertainment Tulane McCalister Auditorium.

Sunday, October 6, 1996

7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.: Alumni President's Breakfast

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.: APPNA Business Meeting

KEMCAANA, A Clarification: The Mastercard/Visa terminal for KEMC was not functioning immediately prior and during the summer meeting. All charges therefore, were run on the SAYA terminal. If you had used a Visa or Mastercard for the payment of your KE dues, you may find your credit card statement showing sums of \$110.00 or \$210.00 etc. being attributed to SAYA. Those actually belong to KEMCAANA and will be subsequently transferred to the King Edward Medical College Alumni. We apologize for any inconvenience or misunderstanding. Mohammad Suleman, MD, Raana Akbar, MD, Tariq Khan, MD, Hussain Malik, MD