



Message from the President

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Ms. Maqboola Dojki

It gives me immense pleasure to announce the official launching of Pakistan Biological Safety Association. Pakistan has entered in an era of increased scientific research. Work with infectious agents in public and private research, diagnostic laboratories and animal care facilities has expanded. In addition, there has been an explosive increase in number of diagnostic laboratories, blood banks and medical facilities in all mega cities of Pakistan. Unfortunately the science of Biosafety which is fundamental to any biotechnical progress has lagged behind. Consequently, infectious agents such as hepatitis B, C, multi-drug resistant TB with epidemic potentials are spreading fast.

In view of these needs core group of Life Scientists trained in the concepts of Biosafety met and passed a resolution towards the formulation of association that would guide the institution/ organizations and individual laboratory and health care directors on issues such as biological risk assessment, capability of equipments facilities, use of personal protection gears, waste disposals and many other measures required for promotion of safe environment.

As a result, the Pakistan Biological Safety Association was formed. It was announced on March 29, 2008. The eminent Life scientists and researchers formally registered and elected the Executive/ Managing Committee. Dr Anwar Nasim Adviser Science COMSTECH and Convener National Core Group in Life Sciences was unanimously elected

as Patron in chief. First national meeting for the official launching was held in Islamabad on July 21, 2008.

It was attended by participants from various organizations including: AFIP, Global Marketing Services, Strategic Plans Division Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SPD), DESTO, Ministry of Environment, Shifa International Hospital, NUST, NARC, PAEC, Quaid-e-Azam University Islamabad, Aga Khan University Karachi, University of Karachi, Indus Hospital Karachi, NIH Islamabad, COMSTECH and HEC.

Pakistan Biological Safety Association is a non-profit, professional organization dedicated to the provision of comprehensive knowledge related to Biosafety issues in Pakistan. Application of this knowledge will enable the microbiological and biomedical community to prevent personal, laboratory and environmental exposure to potentially infectious agents and will promote safe environment for health care workers, researchers, veterinarian and public in general.

I would invite all Life Scientists to join hands with PBSA to help ensure Biosafety through the promotion of best practices, standards, and codes of conduct in Life sciences in Pakistan.

Thank you

Dr Erum Khan
President,
Pakistan Biological Safety
Association



ACTIVITIES & UPCOMING EVENTS



Official launching of PBSA July 21 2008 Islamabad



Biosafety level 3 Training course organized by Emory University in Atlanta was attended by Ms. Maqboola Dojki and Ms. Shahida Qureshi.



Guest lecture was arranged for Dr Terrence Taylor on Aug 04 2008 at Aga Khan University while he was visiting Karachi Pakistan.

Dr Terrence Taylor is President of International Council for Life Sciences and Vice President of Global Health and Security in Washington DC, U.S.A. Dr Taylor delivered lecture on "Countering Biological Risks: Building Networks and Consortia"

OUR ACTIVITIES

- **PBSA acknowledged at National forum:** Launching of PBSA was covered extensively in press by renowned newspaper Dawn and Daily Times on Aug 06 2008.
- **PBSA acknowledged at International Forum:** Science and Development Network in their Sept 2008 issue reports Pakistan has established a national-level body to monitor Biosafety measures in the areas of biotechnology and trans-border infectious diseases. For details please visit <http://www.scidev.net>
- **International Advisory Group**
We are pleased to inform that a large number of Biosafety specialist from around the world have supported the mission of PBSA and have joined hands with as our International advisory group.
- **Developing Web page for PBSA**
We are in a process of developing webpage for PBSA
- **Email account created for PBSA:**
For information or queries, please write to pbsa.pak@gmail.com

OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

- **International symposium on Tropical Medicine & Hygiene** will be held at Aga Khan University from Nov 10-13 2008. This symposium will be held in collaboration with the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, UK (RSTMH), and the Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan (IDSP). The symposium will highlight important issues of relevance to tropical medicine, and clinical and public health practice in Pakistan and the developing world. For further details, please visit <http://www.aku.edu/news/seminars/rstmh/>
- **Pre symposium workshop for laboratory Biosafety & Biosecurity** planned for November 8th 2008 was postponed in view of inability of International Speakers to attend the conference (travel advisory posted by their governments). New dates for workshop will be announced soon.

USEFUL LINK

- **PARN:** Pakistan Antimicrobial Resistance Network was established to create awareness generation through sharing of information about prevalent resistance patterns and provision of guidance on appropriate antimicrobial usage. For details please visit www.parn.org.pk/