



23rd Annual Conference of
MMIDSP
Medical Microbiology & Infectious
Diseases Society of Pakistan

— Making a world of difference: Detect, Respond & Prevent —

6-7 Feb, 2026

PC Hotel, Rawalpindi

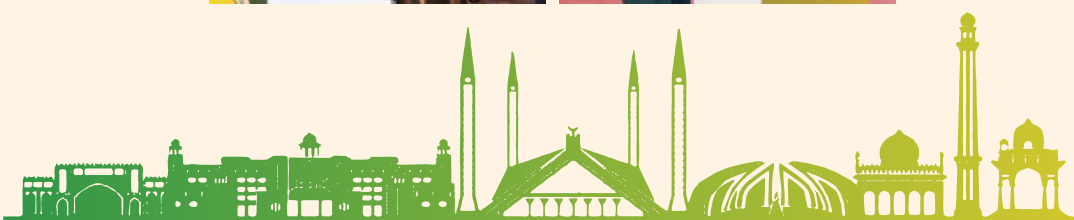
Report _____
23rd Annual Conference
MMIDSP



CONFERENCE DAY 1: WELCOME

The 23rd MMIDSP Annual Conference, themed “MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE: DETECT, RESPOND & PREVENT,” brought together leading experts across country in microbiology and infectious diseases to discuss innovative strategies for the detection, response, and prevention of infectious diseases in Pakistan and globally.

The conference chairs, Dr. Afreenish Amir and Dr. Nasim Akhtar formally welcomed the esteemed guests, panelists, and audience, highlighting the importance of collaboration, scientific innovation, and evidence-based approaches in strengthening healthcare systems and improving disease control outcomes. The conference sessions included interactive panel discussions, expert presentations, and knowledge-sharing on topics ranging from antimicrobial resistance to emerging pathogens and public health preparedness.

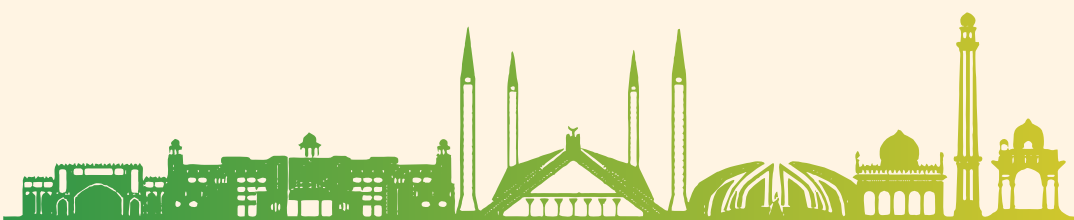


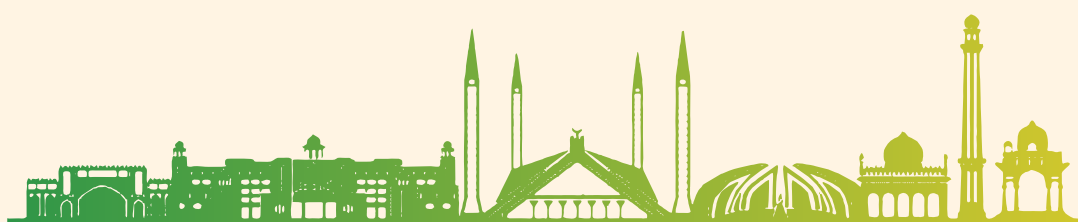
PLENARY SESSION

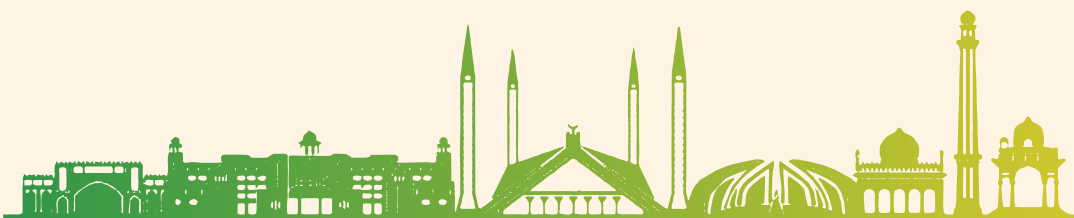
The 23rd Annual MMIDSP Conference (2026), themed "MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE: DETECT, RESPOND & PREVENT," formally commenced with the recitation of the Holy Quran, followed by the National Anthem. Dr. Summiya Nizamuddin, President of MMIDSP, delivered the opening remarks, emphasizing the importance of scientific collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and evidence-based approaches in tackling infectious diseases. She set the vision for the conference as a platform where experts, policymakers, and practitioners could engage in meaningful dialogue and drive actionable outcomes for public health.

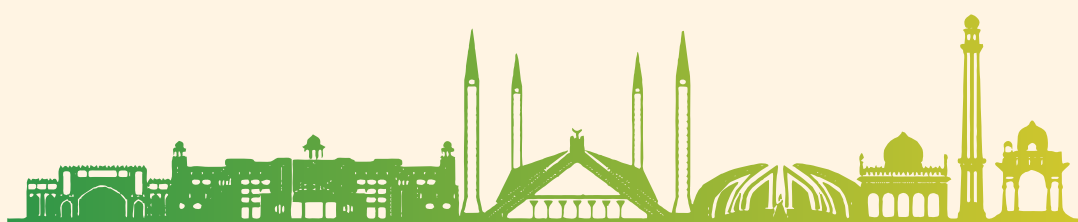
The keynote address was delivered by Professor Dr. Shehzad Ali Khan, Vice Chancellor of the Health Services Academy, Islamabad, on "INTEGRATING PUBLIC HEALTH WITH THE PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN PAKISTAN." He provided in-depth insights into the critical link between public health systems and disease prevention, highlighting strategies for strengthening surveillance, promoting community awareness, and enhancing Pakistan's preparedness to respond to infectious disease outbreaks. His presentation laid a strong foundation for the knowledge-sharing and discussions that followed.

This was followed by an expert panel discussion on emerging infectious disease threats, featuring Prof. Gen. Irfan Mirza, Prof. Gen. Aamer Ikram, Prof Dr Altaf Ahmad, Prof Dr Shahzad Ali Khan, Prof. Dr. Asma Naseem, skillfully moderated by Dr. Naseem Akhtar. The panelists shared their expertise on a range of pressing topics, including the rise of antimicrobial resistance, preparedness for novel pathogens, strategies for rapid outbreak response, and the integration of genomic surveillance into public health practice. Attendees engaged actively, asking questions and contributing perspectives from clinical, research, and policy backgrounds, making the discussion highly interactive and insightful. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Conference Chair Dr. Afreenish Amir, followed by the presentation of shields to the esteemed guests in recognition of their contributions.





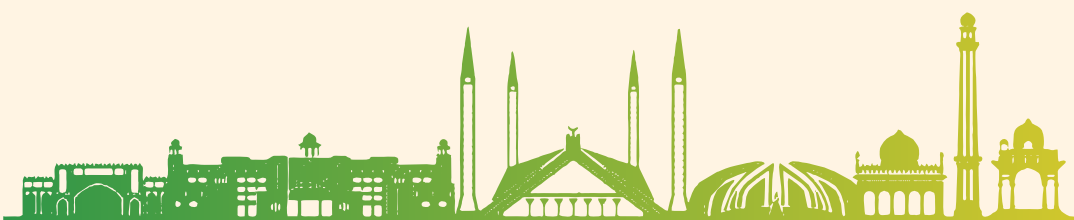


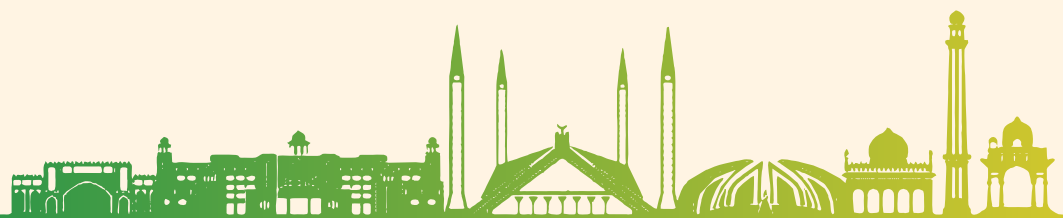


SCIENTIFIC SESSION 1:

BEYOND THE MICROSCOPE: LEVERAGING MODERN DIAGNOSTICS FOR SMARTER ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

The session titled “Beyond the Microscope: Leveraging Modern Diagnostics for Smarter Antimicrobial Stewardship” was chaired by Brig. Dr. Kamran Afzal, co-chaired by Dr. Shobha Laxmi, and moderated by Dr. Safia Moin. The session commenced with a talk by Dr. Rehan Niazi on “*Antimicrobial Stewardship: An Overview and the Role of Pharmacists*,” where he highlighted the importance of pharmacists in optimizing antibiotic use, minimizing resistance, and improving patient outcomes. Dr. Amreen Zahra presented on “*Syndromic Testing: A Novel Diagnostic Approach Enhancing Patient Care for the Treatment of Infectious Diseases and Combating AMR*,” emphasizing the role of rapid multiplex diagnostics in enabling timely and targeted therapy. Dr. Summaiyya Nizamuddin discussed the “*Role of Modern Diagnostics in Diagnostic Stewardship*,” focusing on how advanced diagnostic techniques support appropriate clinical decision-making and reduce unnecessary antimicrobial use. Col. Dr. Sakeena Naqvi concluded the talks with insights on “*Novel Fungal Diagnostics*,” highlighting emerging methods for early and accurate detection of challenging fungal infections. A Free Paper segment featured three research presentations, fostering academic exchange and showcasing ongoing work in the field. The session ended with an engaging Q&A discussion, followed by certificate distribution to recognize the contributions of presenters and participants.

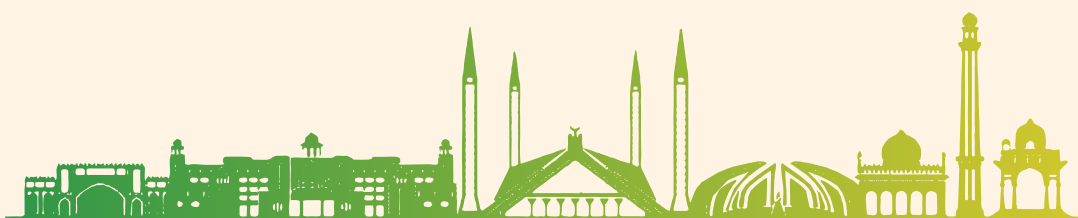


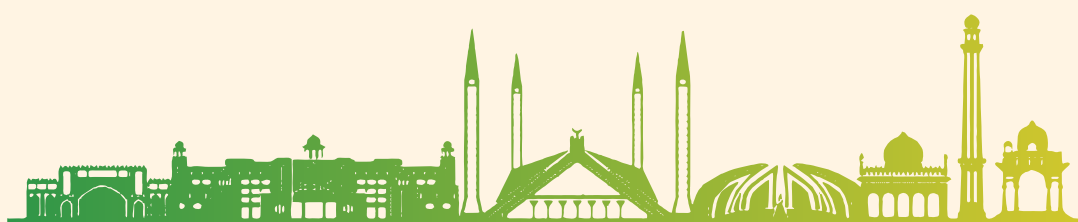


SCIENTIFIC SESSION 2

National Trends in Re-emerging Bacterial, Viral, and Zoonotic Infections

The session titled “National Trends in Re-emerging Bacterial, Viral, and Zoonotic Infections” was chaired by Dr. Asma Naseem, co-chaired by Dr. Muhammad Abu Bakr, and moderated by Dr. Saman Nadeem. The session included four key presentations: Dr. Mumtaz Ali Khan discussed the importance of structured reporting systems in “National Notifiable Diseases for Surveillance” for early detection and control of infectious disease outbreaks. Dr. Massab Umair highlighted the role of genomic technologies in pathogen tracking in “National Genomic Surveillance for High-Risk Pathogens.” Dr. Hina Sadiq addressed the rising cases and management of Mpox in her talk, “Mpox in the Mix: Growing Cases and Clinical Insights.” Finally, Dr. Nasim Akhtar focused on the risks of shingles in patients with comorbidities, emphasizing preventive strategies. The session concluded with three research presentations during the Free Paper segment, followed by a Q&A and certificate distribution for presenters.

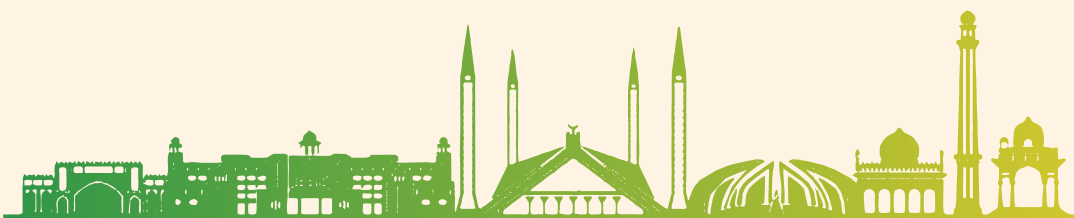


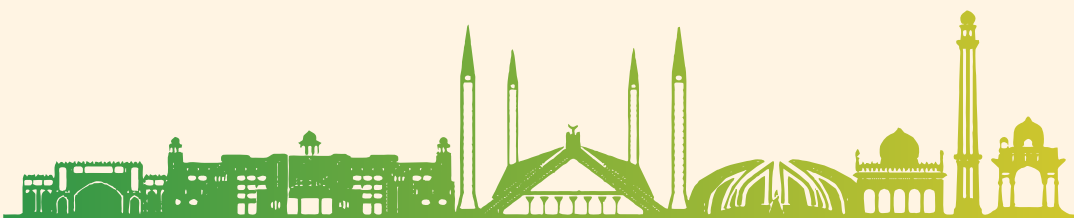


SCIENTIFIC SESSION 3

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL: THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE AGAINST EMERGING THREATS

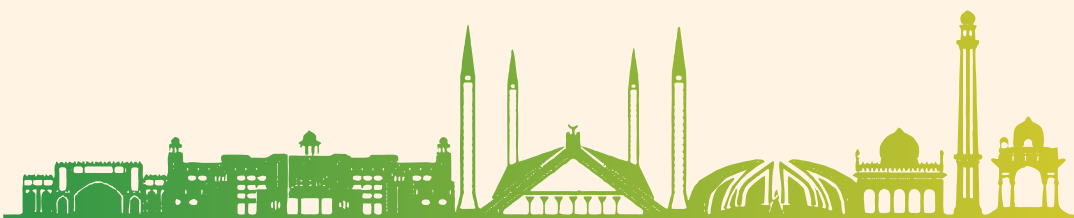
The session titled "Infection Prevention And Control: The First Line Of Defense Against Emerging Threats" was chaired by Prof. Dr. Shagufta Hussain, co-chaired by Dr. Farah Sabih, and moderated by Dr. Muna Malik. The session began with Dr. Altaf Ahmed's talk, "Vent Your Frustrations! Do's and Don'ts of Hospital Design and Infection Control," which highlighted the importance of hospital infrastructure and ventilation systems in preventing infection spread. Dr. Amjad Mehboob followed with "HAI Surveillance: Challenges in Pakistan and the Way Forward," addressing gaps in monitoring healthcare-associated infections and the need for improved surveillance systems. Dr. Samreen Sarfraz then presented on "Hospital Outbreak Hustles: Bugs, Beds, and Band-Aids," discussing practical challenges during outbreaks and management strategies for patient safety. Brig. Dr. Umar Khurshid concluded with "Bioterrorism: Infection Prevention and Control in Conflict Situations," emphasizing preparedness and response strategies in high-risk scenarios. A panel discussion on IPC challenges in Pakistan, moderated by Dr. Iffat Khanum and featuring several experts, focused on implementation gaps and sustainable infection control strategies. The session ended with a Free Paper segment containing three research presentations, an interactive Q&A, and certificate distribution for contributors.

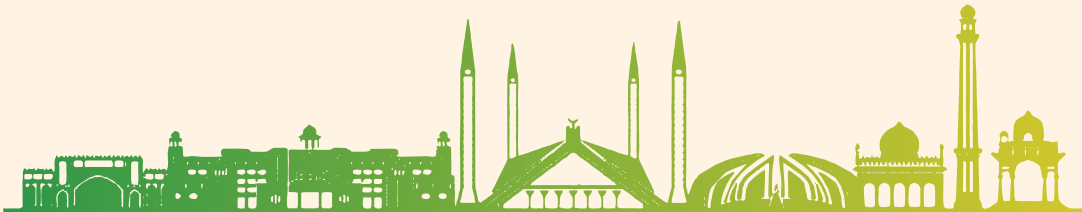


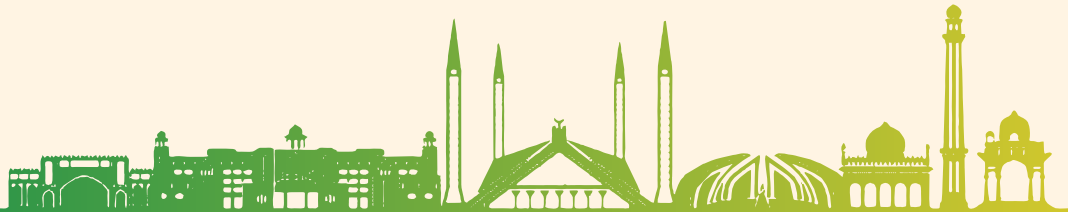


SCIENTIFIC SESSION 4: WHAT IS HOT IN HIV/TB?

The session titled “**What is Hot in HIV/TB?**” was chaired by Dr. Sobia Qazi, co-chaired by Dr. Luqman Satti, and moderated by Dr. Maria Khan. Dr. Faisal Mehmood opened with “*New HIV Guidelines for Advanced HIV Disease,*” outlining updated recommendations, early detection, and improved clinical management to reduce HIV-related complications and mortality. Dr. Fatima Mir followed with PMTCT of HIV, emphasizing antenatal screening, timely antiretroviral therapy, safe delivery, and integrated maternal-child care. Dr. Sabira Tehseen discussed mono-drug resistant tuberculosis in Pakistan, highlighting rising resistance, diagnostic gaps, and the need for strengthened surveillance and patient-centered care, followed by Dr. Avishan Sohail, who presented “*Shorter is Better! New Regimens in Drug-Susceptible and Drug-Resistant TB,*” focusing on shorter, more effective treatments. A panel discussion titled “*The Dual Threat: Can Pakistan’s TB & HIV Programs Sustain the Funding Cut?*” was moderated by Dr. Samreen Sarfraz and included Dr. Abdul Wali, Dr. Umair, Dr. Faisal Mehmood, Dr. Nasim Akhter, Dr. Sobia Qazi, and Dr. Faheem Afzal, focusing on the impact of funding cuts on TB and HIV programs and the need for stronger financing, efficient resource use, service integration, and policy commitment. A parallel Free Paper session featured three research presentations, followed by an engaging Q&A and certificate distribution.







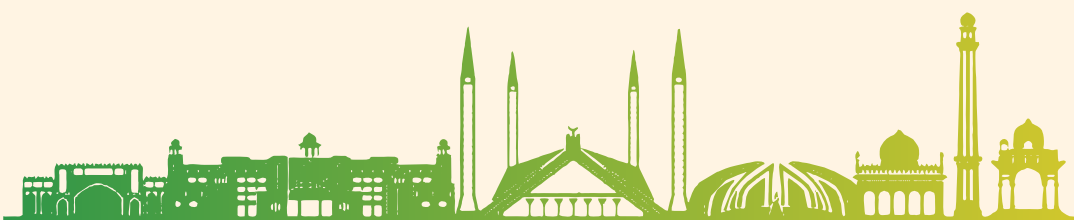
CONFERENCE DAY 2: PLENARY SESSION

The second day of the conference commenced with welcome remarks by Conference Chair Dr. Afreenish Amir, who also provided a brief wrap-up of Day 1 proceedings. She highlighted key scientific discussions, particularly around antimicrobial resistance, emerging infections, diagnostics, and surveillance systems, noting the strong interdisciplinary engagement across sessions. She appreciated the active participation of speakers and delegates and emphasized the importance of translating scientific evidence into practice through collaboration and strengthened health systems. The Chair concluded by setting a focused tone for Day 2 and welcoming participants to the day's scientific program.

The plenary session began with a virtual keynote address titled "Preventing the Incurable: Let Us Unite to Combat Rabies in Pakistan" by Prof. Dr. Naseem Salahuddin. She emphasized the urgent need for a coordinated national strategy to eliminate rabies through mass vaccination of animals, enhanced public awareness, timely post-exposure prophylaxis, and strengthened surveillance systems.

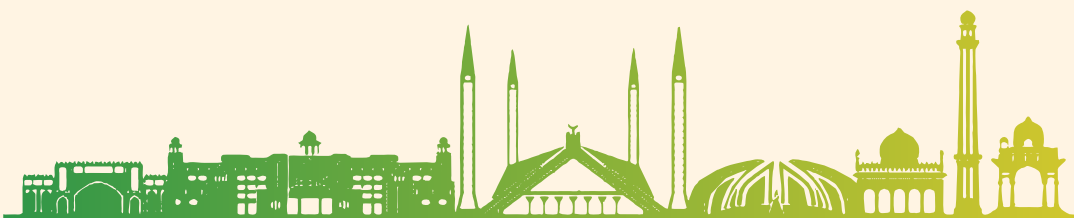
This was followed by the second keynote, "Bridging Borders: Networking for Collective Health Security," delivered by Prof. Dr. Maj Gen Aamer Ikram. He highlighted the importance of regional and international collaboration in strengthening health security frameworks, improving early outbreak detection, and establishing shared response mechanisms to effectively address emerging infectious disease threats across borders.

The session concluded by Conference Chair, Dr Nasim Akhtar with a vote of thanks to the keynote speakers, followed by the distribution of shields and souvenirs in recognition of their valuable contributions.





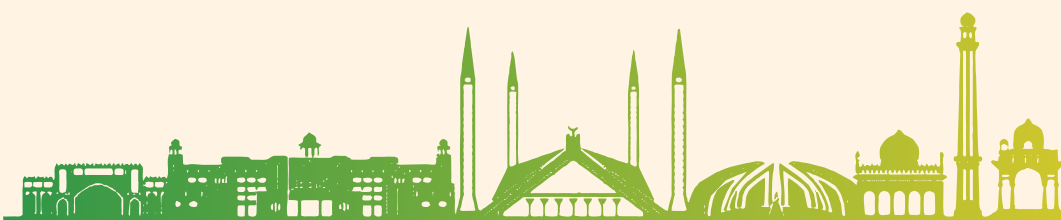
CONFERENCE DAY 2: PLENARY SESSION

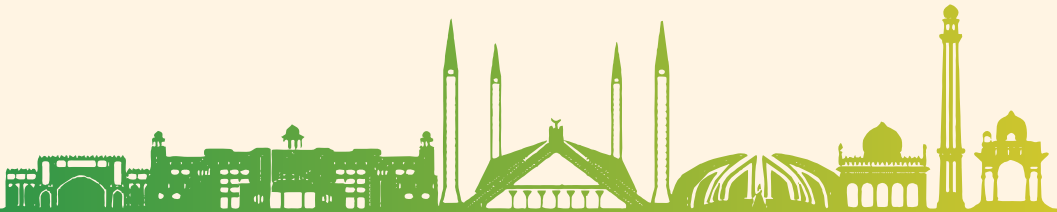


SCIENTIFIC SESSION 5:

THE HIDDEN THREAT – INVASIVE INFECTIONS IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HOSTS

Session 5, themed “*The Hidden Threat: Invasive Infections in Immunocompromised Hosts*,” was chaired by Dr. Seema Irfan, co-chaired by Dr. Sunil Dodani, and moderated by Dr. Kiran Ahmed. Dr. Furqana Akhter opened with “*Spectrum of Infections in Liver Transplant Recipients*,” highlighting the range of bacterial, viral, and fungal infections in post-transplant patients and the importance of early recognition and individualized management. Dr. Aun Raza followed with “*Hematologic Hurdles: Infections in Pakistan’s Oncology Battle*,” emphasizing infection risks in immunocompromised cancer patients, diagnostic challenges, and the need for timely interventions. Prof. Dr. M. Faheem Afzal then presented “*Lighting Torch Infections*,” focusing on awareness, early identification, and multidisciplinary management. Dr. Aisha Ilyas discussed “*MOTT Infections: Beyond the TB Shadow*,” highlighting the clinical significance and diagnostic challenges of non-tuberculous mycobacterial infections. The final talk by Dr. Joveria Farooqi on “*Rare Fungal Infections – Case Based*” emphasized uncommon fungal infections, diagnostic difficulties, and the need for a high index of suspicion. The session also included a Free Paper segment featuring research presentations, followed by an engaging Q&A and certificate distribution to recognize the contributions of speakers and participants.

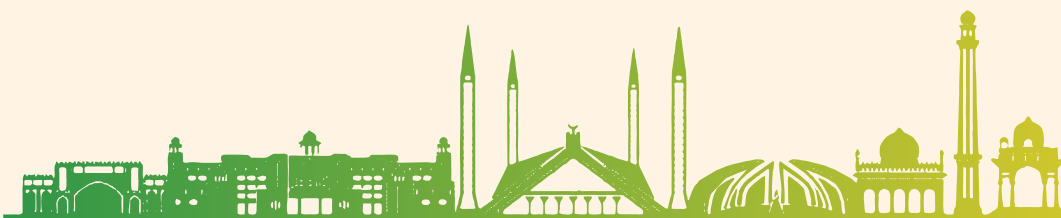


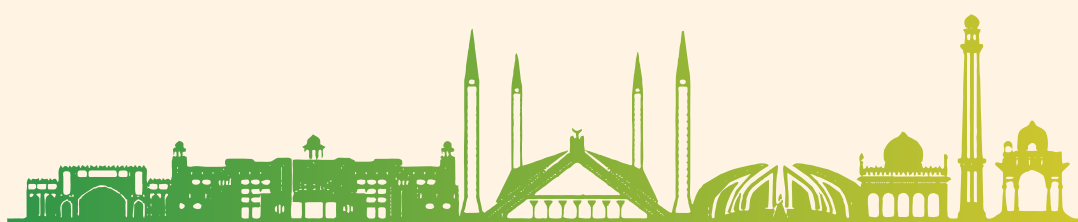


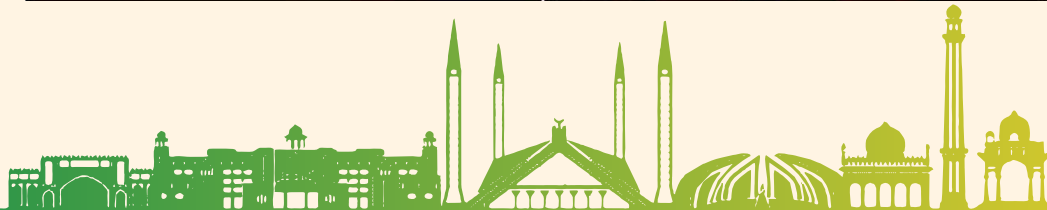
SCIENTIFIC SESSION 6:

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND POWER OF PREVENTION

Session 6, titled “Antimicrobial Resistance and Power of Prevention,” focused on antimicrobial resistance and preventive, stewardship-based strategies, and was chaired by Prof. Dr. Asghar Javaid, co-chaired by Dr. Nosheen Nasir, and moderated by Dr. Memoona Irshad. Dr. Shobha Laxmi opened with “Gram Positive Resistance: Challenges in Management,” highlighting the rising burden of resistant organisms and the need for optimized antibiotic use and stewardship. Dr. Afreenish Amir followed with “Wastewater Surveillance for Infectious Disease Control,” emphasizing environmental monitoring for early detection and outbreak prevention. Dr. Amir Kazi then presented “Treating DTR Pseudomonas and CRAB in Pakistan: From Guideline to Guide Me,” discussing challenges in managing difficult-to-treat Gram-negative infections and applying global guidelines in resource-limited settings. Prof. Dr. Ejaz Khan highlighted vaccination in “Vaccines as a Strategy to Combat AMR,” while Dr. Faisal Hanif concluded with “From Empiric to Elegant: Utilizing Antibiotic Timeouts to Drive Precision De-escalation,” focusing on stewardship strategies to optimize therapy and reduce unnecessary antibiotic use. The session also included a Free Paper segment with research presentations, followed by an engaging Q&A and certificate distribution to recognize the contributions of speakers and participants.



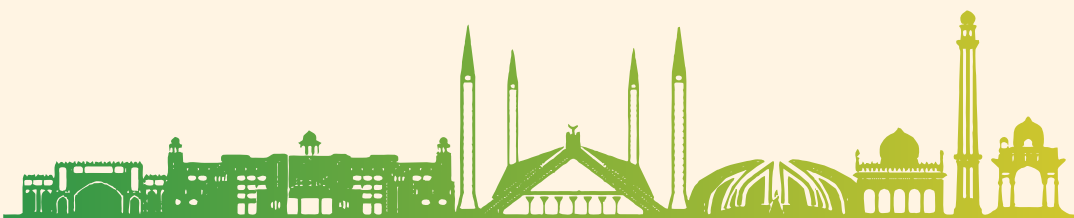




CHALLENGES CASES IN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Conference Day 2 featured an interactive session titled “*Challenging Cases in Infectious Diseases, Microbiology, Pediatrics, and Pharmacy,*” where eight complex and clinically challenging cases were presented by talented participants. The session was moderated by Dr. Fizza Farooqui and Dr. Sara Ahmed, who facilitated a focused, engaging, and highly interactive discussion throughout.

The presented cases reflected real-world diagnostic and therapeutic dilemmas, including antimicrobial resistance, difficult pediatric infections, microbiological uncertainties, and complex pharmacological decision-making. Each case encouraged active multidisciplinary input, allowing participants to explore alternative diagnostic pathways and evidence-based management strategies. The session fostered critical thinking and collaborative problem-solving, with experts providing valuable feedback on optimizing patient care in complex clinical scenarios. It concluded with an insightful discussion highlighting key learning points and practical approaches to improving clinical decision-making in challenging infectious disease settings.



QUIZ

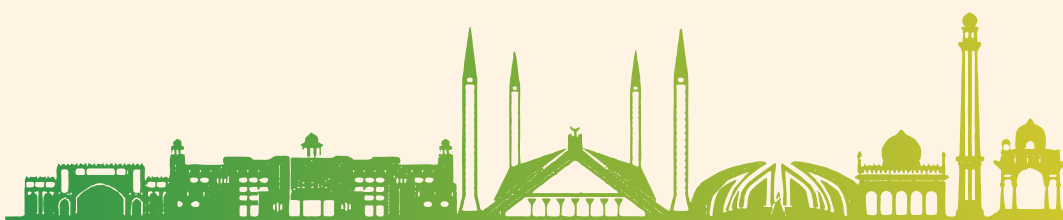
A team-based quiz was conducted by Dr. Tehreem Ansari, Dr. Nazish Arshad, and Dr. Mehreen Fatima, with participation from three competing teams. The activity was designed to assess and reinforce knowledge across infectious diseases, microbiology, and related clinical disciplines through an engaging and competitive format.

The quiz encouraged rapid clinical reasoning, teamwork, and evidence-based decision-making, allowing participants to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios under time constraints. It served as an interactive academic exercise that promoted active learning, collaboration, and healthy competition.

Overall, the session provided an enjoyable and stimulating environment, effectively reinforcing key concepts while enhancing participant engagement and confidence in clinical problem-solving.

EXHIBITION HALL

The exhibition hall featured a variety of stalls where different organizations and companies showcased their products and services related to diagnostics and antibiotics. The displays included advanced diagnostic tools, laboratory technologies, and a range of antimicrobial agents, providing participants with valuable insights into current innovations and available solutions in the field of infectious diseases and clinical microbiology. The exhibition served as an important platform for knowledge exchange, industry-academia collaboration, and awareness of emerging diagnostic and therapeutic advancements.



Meet the Expert Corner

The “Meet the Expert Corner” featured a series of focused and highly interactive sessions with subject specialists across key domains of infectious diseases, microbiology, pharmacy, and public health.

Discussions on “*Research Trends in Infectious Diseases*” were led by Dr. Sana Anwar and Dr. Sunil Dodani, who highlighted emerging areas of research, evolving methodologies, and priority directions in the field. The “*Grant Writing*” session by Dr. Nosheen Nasir provided practical guidance on developing competitive proposals, identifying funding opportunities, and strengthening research applications.

In “*Public Health and Infection Prevention and Control*,” Dr. Asma Nasim and Dr. Luqman Satti emphasized key IPC strategies, implementation challenges, and their critical role in reducing healthcare-associated infections. The “*Career Pathways in Pharmacy*” session, led by Mr. Waqas Ahmad and Mr. Rehan Niazi, explored diverse professional trajectories, skill development, and emerging roles within clinical and public health pharmacy.

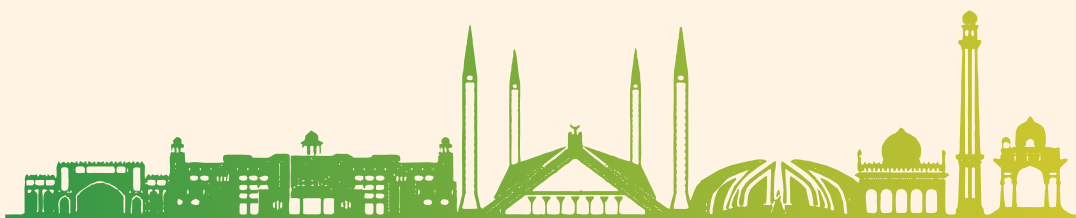
Finally, “*Career Opportunities in Microbiology*,” featuring Dr. Joveria Farooqi, Dr. Faisal Hanif, and Dr. Maria Khan, provided valuable insights into academic, diagnostic, and research-oriented career paths in the discipline.

Overall, the sessions offered concise, practice-oriented guidance on research development, funding strategies, infection control, and career planning, serving as a meaningful platform for mentorship and professional growth.

The GAME CORNER

The *Game Corner*, led by Dr. Faisal Mehmood, provided an engaging and interactive learning break for participants. Designed to create a relaxed yet intellectually stimulating environment, the activity encouraged active participation, rapid thinking, and peer-to-peer learning.

Through its dynamic and competitive format, the session reinforced key concepts in an enjoyable manner while maintaining an educational focus. It added a refreshing and lively dimension to the conference experience, promoting engagement, collaboration, and informal learning among attendees.



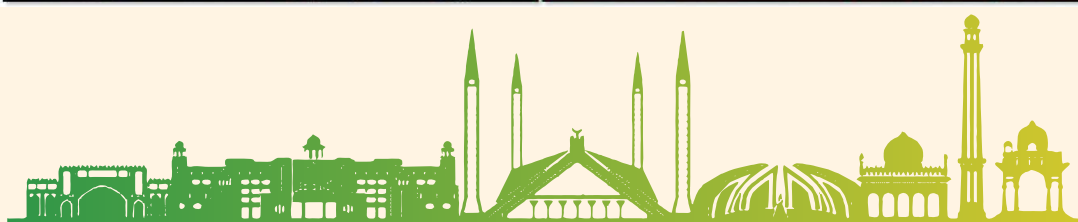
HEALTH DESK

SESSION 1: ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE: WHY IT MATTERS AND HOW WE CAN MANAGE IT

The *Health Desk* session focused on “Antimicrobial Resistance: Why It Matters and How We Can Manage It,” and was moderated by Dr. Rabia Tabbassum. The panel included Dr. M. Abid Farooq, Dr. Afreenish Amir, Dr. Nasim Akhtar, Dr. Inamullah Khan Niazi, Dr. Kiran Fatima, and Dr. Memoona Irshad.

The discussion highlighted the growing global and national threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), emphasizing the importance of rational antibiotic use, antimicrobial stewardship, and evidence-based prescribing practices. Panelists underscored the need for strengthened collaboration between clinical and public health systems to effectively mitigate the impact of AMR.

The session also featured active media and public engagement, with questions addressing antibiotic misuse, access to diagnostics, self-medication practices, and policy-level interventions. The panel provided clear, evidence-based responses aimed at improving public awareness and promoting responsible antibiotic use at both community and healthcare levels.



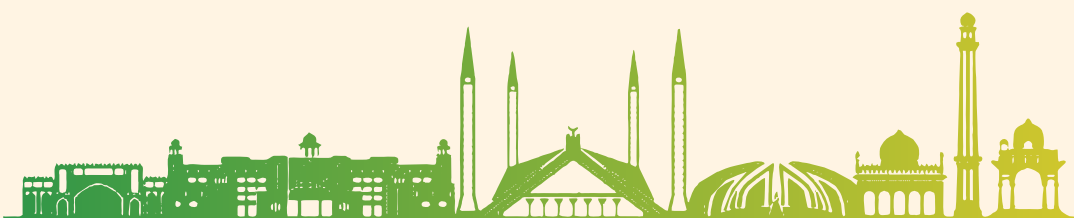
HEALTH DESK

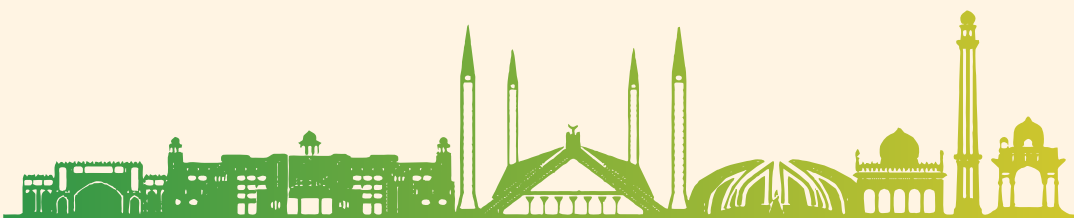
SESSION 2: INFECTIONS AND ANTIBIOTICS: WHAT PEOPLE THINK VS WHAT THEY NEED TO KNOW

The second session, titled “*Infections and Antibiotics: What People Think vs What They Need to Know*,” was moderated by Dr. Memoona Irshad with panelists Dr. Riffat Ramzan, Dr. Shafia Nasir, Dr. Ahmad Yar, Dr. Hina Javed, and Dr. Hina Bukhari.

The discussion focused on addressing widespread misconceptions about infections and antibiotic use, highlighting the gap between public perception and clinical evidence. Panelists emphasized the importance of evidence-based prescribing, patient education, and responsible antibiotic use.

They also underscored the risks associated with antibiotic misuse and overuse, particularly in driving antimicrobial resistance, and stressed the need for clear communication between healthcare providers and patients to promote rational therapy and improve treatment outcomes.



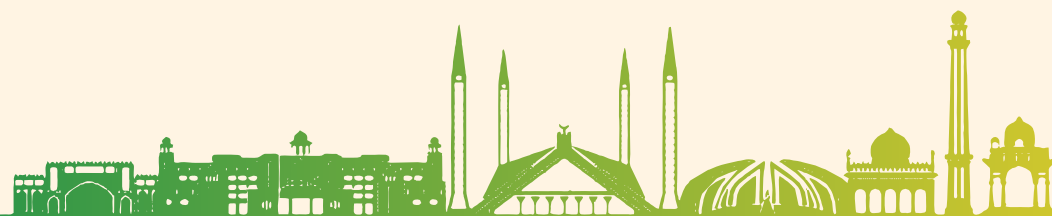


HEALTH DESK – SESSION 3: FIGHTING MISINFORMATION IN REAL TIME AND ROLE OF MEDIA IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE AWARENESS

The third session, “*Fighting Misinformation in Real Time and Role of Media in Infectious Disease Awareness*,” was moderated by Sadaf Munir. The panel included Dr. Kiran Habib, Prof. Dr. Asghar Javaid, Dr. Aurangzeb, Dr. Rizwan, Dr. Kiran Shehzadi, Dr. Shahrukh Khan, and Dr. Arooj Sikander.

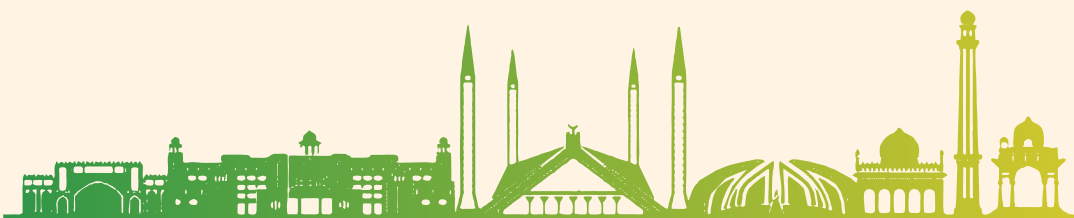
The discussion centered on the rapid spread of health misinformation, particularly during infectious disease outbreaks, and its impact on public understanding and health-seeking behavior. Panelists highlighted the influential role of media in shaping perceptions and emphasized the need for accurate, timely, and responsible health communication.

They also discussed practical strategies for effective risk communication, including collaboration between healthcare professionals and media, proactive public engagement, and real-time correction of misinformation to support informed decision-making during public health emergencies.



HEALTH DESK – SESSION 4: AI IN MEDICAL INFORMATION, SELF-MEDICATION & REFRAMING THE PHARMACY COUNTER

The fourth session was moderated by Dr. Muhammad Abid and covered two key themes: “Use of AI for Medical Information and Self-Medication” and “Reframing the Pharmacy Counter.” Panelists included Dr. Anum Imtiaz, Dr. Farooq Ahmad, Dr. Maria Khan, Dr. Mahwish, and Dr. Nadya. The discussion explored the growing influence of artificial intelligence in healthcare decision-making, risks of self-medication driven by digital tools, and the evolving role of pharmacists in patient counseling and antimicrobial stewardship at the community level.



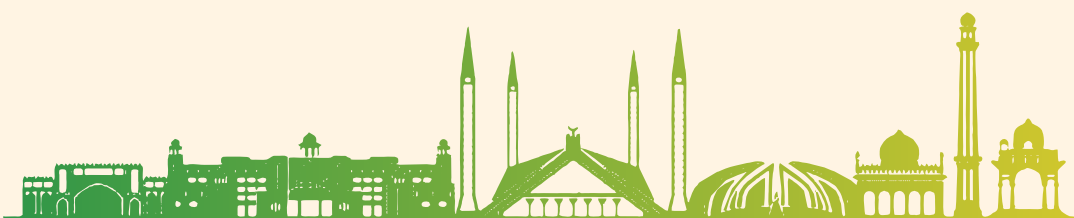


E-POSTER COMPETITION

An *E-Poster Competition* was also held as part of the conference, providing participants with a platform to present their research in a concise and visually engaging digital format.

The competition featured a wide range of topics spanning infectious diseases, microbiology, antimicrobial resistance, and public health, reflecting the diversity and depth of ongoing research in these fields. Participants showcased innovative ideas, study findings, and emerging concepts, contributing to a rich academic exchange.

The activity encouraged active academic participation, critical thinking, and effective scientific communication, while also fostering engagement among young researchers and professionals. Overall, it served as an important component of the conference's scientific program, highlighting creativity and research excellence.



CLOSING CEREMONY

The Day 2 closing ceremony commenced with a comprehensive summary of the day's academic activities presented by Conference Chair Dr. Nasim Akhtar, who highlighted key scientific sessions, interactive discussions, and the overall learning outcomes of the day. This was followed by closing remarks from President MMIDSP Dr. Summiya Nizamuddin, who appreciated the valuable contributions of speakers, moderators, and participants, while emphasizing the importance of sustained academic engagement, collaboration, and knowledge sharing in addressing emerging infectious disease challenges.

The conference chair Dr Afreenish Amir extended heartfelt appreciation to the organizers, scientific and organizing committees, volunteers, sponsors, and participants for their collective efforts in making the conference a success. Their dedication, coordination, and active involvement were acknowledged as central to the smooth execution and scientific richness of the program. The ceremony concluded with certificate and souvenirs distribution conducted by Dr. Afreenish Amir, formally recognizing the contributions and participation of all attendees and marking the successful conclusion of Day 2 on a note of appreciation and gratitude.

We believe that the conference has served as a meaningful platform for knowledge exchange, professional engagement, and the strengthening of collaborations across disciplines. It has further contributed to advancing ongoing efforts in the field through shared learning and dialogue. The Medical Microbiology Infectious Diseases Society of Pakistan remains committed to convening professionals with shared purpose on an annual basis, with the aim of fostering sustained collaboration, academic excellence, and collective progress in addressing current and emerging health challenges.

