

7th Orthodontic International Conference

“Excellence Through Synergy”

20th – 22nd September, 2019

PC Bhurban

In continuation to the tradition set by the prestigious Pakistan Association of Orthodontists (PAO), the 7th Orthodontic International Conference was held from 20th to 22nd September, 2019 at the scenic location of Pearl Continental Hotel Bhurban, Murree. It was one of the biggest events in dentistry to take place in Pakistan and was highlighted by the fact that all dental fields united under one umbrella to share knowledge and experiences, and to set a unique collaboration and a superior future in the field of dentistry. The conference named “Excellence Through Synergy” was joined by the fraternity of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Operative Dentistry, Periodontology and Implantology who participated with full zest to make the event a success story. The aim was to achieve excellence in Dentistry through synergy between various specialties in Pakistan.

The conference kicked off with “Annual General Body Meeting” which was chaired by the president PAO, Prof. Ghulam Rasool and attended by most of the Orthodontic fraternity. Important decisions were made regarding the Pakistan Orthodontic Journal (POJ) and its future standing along with some other important pertaining issues.

The conference was privileged by the presence of the President of Pakistan as the chief guest, Dr. Arif Alvi, who is also the founder member of PAO. Mr. President attended the opening ceremony and addressed the crowd with his pearls of wisdom which was attended by more than 800 delegates. The patrons were also in attendance including Prof. Ambreen Afzal, Prof. Waheed ul Hamid and Prof. Amjad Mahmood. The ceremony was also honored by Prof. Arshad Javed, who is the Vice Chancellor KMU, Dr. Abdul Qadir (Chairman of MIHS) and Dr. Mohammad Zohair (Director ORIC KMU). The organizing committee comprised of Prof. Ghulam Rasool (President PAO), Prof. Anwar Ali Shah, Prof. Haroon Shahid Qazi, Dr. Afeef Umar Zia and Dr. Abdul Jabbar.

The versatile venue of PC Bhurban had more to offer than just education and learning. So, more than 800 participants registered from across the country including undergrad students, house officers, post grad residents, consultants and private practitioners several of which were accompanied by their families. The students were free to chose from which ever field of their interest as there were three separate scientific sessions taking place at three different halls. The timing of all the sessions was planned accordingly for the audience to maximize the benefit from it.

The conference was joined by some of the world's most renowned speakers along with many of the very familiar names at home. There were 8 international speakers mostly of whom were from the field of Orthodontics and more than 30 local orators from various other specialities of dentistry. The foreign speakers included Prof. Arzu Ari-Demirkaya and Dr. Cagla Sar from Turkey, Dr. Derek Mahony from Australia, Dr. Shadi Samawi from Bahrain, Dr. Anwar Bamber from UK, Dr. Te-Ju, Wu and Dr. Richard Chen-Feng Cheng from Taiwan and Prof. Adnan Shah from Canada. The local speakers included some of the most renowned names of the respective specialities.

Apart from the scientific sessions, the educational activities were summed up by 9 pre and post conference workshops and a "Student's Forum" for the student participants of the conference. In order to avail the time to the maximum benefit for the participants, the workshops were arranged on the occasions other than the conference days at educational institutions including IMDC (Islamabad Medical And Dental College), ACHER (Academy of Continued Health Education and Research), MIHS (Margalla Institute of Health Sciences) and AFID (Armed Forces Institute of Dentistry). The themes of Orthodontics workshops were diverse ranging amongst "Lingual Orthodontics - Correcting the Front Teeth", "The Basis & Craft of Orthognathic Surgery", "Role of Orthodontics in Management of Sleep Apnea + Achieving Excellence in Orthodontics with Wire Bending", "Step Wise Pre-Surgical Preparation of Orthognathic Patient". Apart from Orthodontics, workshops in periodontology, endodontics, prosthodontics and implantology were also arranged with substantial participation.

"Student's Forum" was arranged as a special platform for the students to actively participate and gain benefit from educational activity. It consisted of poster and declamation contest, oral presentations and a career counselling session for the young dentists to pave their way for the brighter future. The response was overwhelming as students from several institutions all over Pakistan participated rigorously in the activity.

Exhibition of various dental products which is an imperative part of every conference, was also organized with Sensodyne (GSK), Glowpak and Advance Western Group being one of the main organizers. Stalls from other organizations included but were not limited to Pfizer, medident, forestadent, triangeltz, orthocare etc. Other than academic activities, entertainment was arranged for the families which included movie show, treasure hunt and additional sports activities. Gala dinner was followed by musical evening which had the crowd at their feet.

"Initiative for artificial intelligence and computing in orthodontics" was introduced to Mr. President along with the delegates attending the conference. To sum it up, Excellence Through Synergy was a perfect blend of professionalism, knowledge, skills, practices, cooperation and entertainment.

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