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DOGANNA publishes quarterly newsletters. We encourage all Dowites to please submit their articles for the publication throughout the year. We are also seeking class news, meeting information or any news that you would like to share with other Dowites. Articles to be submitted by email to linking-dow@gmail.com, in Word document, or plain email format will be acceptable. The Editor reserves the right to edit all the submitted material.

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EDITORIAL

Tariq Jawaid Alam, M.D.

The Dow Medical College has transformed into a vibrant medical university with many disciplines and faculties. While growth is an integral part of expansion and success, this has to be matched with solid infrastructure, manpower and resources. The healthcare system is not just dependent on physicians. Equally important are the paramedical staff, the nurses, technologist, pharmacist, therapist and medical managers and executives. Today, the Dow University has more or less a separate school of these disciplines. This growth has been rapid and exponential. Support from the government and the higher education commission have made this transformation possible.

However, we cannot ignore the role of the Dow alumni in this expansion and growth. Any university is ultimately dependent on the gifts from its alumni. With the already overburdened healthcare delivery method in Pakistan in general and in Karachi in particular, it is imperative that the alumni constantly reconnect with the alma mater and contribute generously to projects that will make a difference.

While the administration of DUHS deserves credit for their vision of expansion, this must be supported with tangible manpower and human resource. Opening multitude of disciplines and faculties without adequate teachers and professionals will be counter-productive. DUHS needs to take the lead in producing genuine and capable professionals who can be a resource and an asset for society. This is where the concept of ToT – Training of Trainers comes in handy. Worldwide, institutions invest in training manpower so that a generation of future leaders are produced. They in turn can train subsequent professionals so that a steady stream of manpower is assured. While DUHS has invested heavily in infrastructure, there is a need to channel some of the resources to train the faculty members and have them exposed to the best level of medical innovation and teaching methodologies so that students of Dow from its various disciplines can remain competitive all over the world.

Today Pakistan suffers from a serious shortage of qualified nurses that are an integral component of any healthcare system. The stigma that is associated with the nursing profession needs to be removed if we truly wish to deliver a first class health system in Pakistan. This is where, the Dow University with all its resources has to make a difference. The concept of ‘hierarchy’ in the healthcare system in Pakistan needs to be abolished and both physicians and healthcare managers need to realize that alone they are not able to make a sustained difference unless they involve other healthcare professionals too.

I truly believe that healthcare does not stop with just producing physicians. Healthcare encompasses the social as well as mental wellbeing of the citizens. Dow has always remained in the forefront of vibrant student movements, democracy and inclusivity. The same spirit and strength needs to be utilized for the greater good. With all its resources and the backing of its powerful alumni, Dow is uniquely suited to achieve the same. I remain confident that the Dow alumni is the greatest strength of Dow University. Our strength is at its best when we are united and devoted to the cause of the medical profession and healthcare in the true sense of the word. Long Live Dow !!

Tariq Jawaid Alam, MD,
Editor