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CORRESPONDENCE:

Website: www.dowlaumni.com



EDITORIAL

Tariq J. Alam, M.D.

This is my last editorial for the year 2014. It has been a pleasure to be the Editor of the DOGANA magazine. It is a way to stay connected with my alma mater and use the power of the pen to highlight issues of common concern for all of us.

The year has been a memorable one indeed for DOGANA. President Azim Qureshi and his team deserves appreciation for some of the most critical issues that were highlighted from the DOGANA platform this year. The issue of physician killing in Pakistan and to recognize the women of Dow were some of the major themes that DOGANA highlighted and advocated for. Several women graduates of Dow Medical College were recognized for their leadership prowess and scientific skills. A very hugely popular social forum was organized by Dow Medical College alumni at the APPNA annual meeting in Washington DC this year that raised awareness and a renewed vigor to highlight the services of our fallen colleagues.

I would like to dedicate this editorial to a very relevant theme. Volunteerism is sacred word. DOGANA highlights and celebrates the spirit of volunteerism on an annual basis. DOGANA members who are busy physicians volunteer their time, energy and effort to work for our alma mater hundreds and thousands of miles away with the sole objective to be able to 'give back' to the institution that has given us so much. Each and every member of the executive committee, committee chairs, vice chairs and members put in many hours of their personal time, attention and ideas to keep the organization relevant and running. They do this without any remuneration or idea of gratification. It is the love for Dow that keeps them running and wanting to do more that can benefit the younger generation of Dow graduates and the institution itself.

DOGANA volunteers will travel to Karachi, Pakistan in December 2014 to organize the DOGANA winter meeting at Dow campus. This is an annual event that members from both in the US as well as Pakistan look forward too. It is an occasion to meet old friends, teachers and to visit the same classrooms, wards and personal with whom we had shared our formative years. Special lectures and workshops are also arranged but the highlight is always the career related seminars and lectures that motivates the interest of many Dow students.

Like in any volunteer organizations, things might not always fall on expectations. Limitations and hardships may be encountered. There will always be those who would want more to be done and more to be achieved. Goals can only be met once each one of us owes Dow and contributes without any benefit or expectations in return. This is the true spirit of volunteerism.

DOGANA offers a great opportunity to involve oneself in volunteer and community activities. I encourage Dow graduates, whether you are a senior or a struggling physician or a student still, to come forward and make DOGANA what you desire it to achieve.

At DOGANA we are already impressed with what our Dow students accomplish while still enrolled in the MBBS program. Organizations such as PWA, SOCH and Indus Hospital are some of the examples where Dowites have volunteered and acted as foot soldiers to reinvigorate the spirit of volunteerism and community and social work. This is indeed what makes Dow and Dowites stand tall. I wish you and your family a very happy new year and a very successful winter meeting at DMC in Karachi.

In the spirit of volunteerism,

Tariq Jawaid Alam, MD
DMC 05
Editor

The writer is the Dow magazine editor for 2014 and is Assistant Professor of Neurology at St. Louis University School of Medicine and Stroke Director and consultant neurologist at Mercy Hospital Jefferson.