

EDITORIAL



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DOGANA (Dow Graduates Association of North America) is one of the largest alumni associations of medical professionals in the United States. Dow Medical College with its rich history and tradition of service has provided medical professionals to almost all parts of the world. Dow graduates are spread far and apart in the US, Canada, UK, middle east and Australia. Dowites are enlightened professionals who not only excel in their respective fields but also share a deep passion for socioeconomic conditions as well as empowerment of youth, women, minorities and the physically challenged.

DOGANA has a very impressive record of gender equality and unity. Currently more women are graduating from Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) than men. Contrary to the perception that women physicians do not work and retire from clinical practice due to family issues, the US alone has seen an unprecedented number of female physicians from DUHS who are active in the workforce. DOGANA has given both men and women the opportunity to seek knowledge, excel and play a prominent role in the creation and implementation of its policies and recommendations. Women physician leaders have served in the DOGANA Central Council and led the organization with remarkable success. Women are encouraged to participate in the electoral process and serve as DOGANA leader which is confirmed by the fact that women physicians constitute 25% of the members of the current Central Council.

For any organization to be relevant and to be taken seriously in community and society as a whole, it has to show its relevance. As a medical organization, DOGANA has a distinguished opportunity to be the advocate of patients, the vulnerable and the sick in our society by making healthcare accessible, affordable and excellent. There has never been a more important time in healthcare than today in our adopted homeland, when access to healthcare and issues such as insurance, pre-existing conditions, reimbursement, individual mandate and expansion of the Medicaid program are being debated. DOGANA with its vibrant army of benevolent healthcare providers and leaders cannot sit back. We have to champion healthcare access and affordability for our patients, families, communities and societies we live in.

DOGANA has also encouraged young physicians to participate in DOGANA activities. DOGANA has amended its constitution and DIMC (Dow International Medical College) graduates are eligible for DOGANA membership. The residents and fellows have been encouraged to take part in DOGANA activities in any way they can contribute best. This notion stems from the fact that the earlier our younger members are exposed to the organization, the more they will feel vested in the organization. The organization then benefits from their lasting energy, ideas, skills, motivation and dedication.

The strength of any organization is in its numbers. With a collective voice we are able to make ourselves impactful and relevant. As DOGANA spreads its wings in to Canada, it is time we put our energy and efforts to increase the membership of the organization. I hope that each one of you will play your role in getting at least a few individuals you may know as member of DOGANA this year.

I congratulate the Central Council for their vision and leadership in choosing Canada as a venue for this year's annual meeting.

I wish you and your families a very successful and an enlightening annual retreat in the glamorous and vibrant city of Toronto!

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.