

**Dear Colleagues, Faculty Members, Students delegates, ladies and gentlemen!**

It is a matter of great pleasure to welcome you to this workshop this morning.

Information Technology has become an essential component for all walks of life. It has a significant role in Health Care as almost all sensitive medical equipments utilize microprocessor technology and are programmed to perform particular functions with the help of properly developed software. During the last decade, advances in Information Technology have not only revolutionized the healthcare industry but it is believed that it will also be utilized in the various other functions. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Health Care sector has always enjoyed an important place in the priorities set by Government of Pakistan.

Keeping in view the specific requirements of our country, the focus should be based on enhancing the capacity to learn while disseminating knowledge in order to maximize the benefit of available resources. The digital library program is an important initiative in this direction. In a digital library all the books are stored on digital files. Digital libraries are gaining more importance day by day in research.

The primary objective of this HEC organized workshop is to create awareness of the various online resources available through the Digital Library Program and to provide participants with the requisite knowledge and skills for effectively utilizing these resources. I feel that it will be a great opportunity not only for the UHS faculty members, postgraduate students, library staff but also for all the participants from different institutions to familiarize with the latest techniques used in obtaining information through digital library. I am sure that this workshop will help the participants to understand the significance of digital library resources and to develop basic search concepts via digital library.

We appreciate the efforts made by HEC for placing stress on upgrading the skills of the vast resources of human capital in Pakistan for promoting the cause of higher education. We gratefully acknowledge the active support of Higher Education Commission for providing the University of Health Sciences, Lahore the facilities such as PERN (*Pakistan educational research network*), digital library and for providing financial help for the development & research projects and establishment of new disciplines. It is a matter of great satisfaction that Higher Education Commission is taking concrete steps, towards establishing the academic network amongst the

Universities of Pakistan for the exchange of research databases and enhancement of academic excellence.

I must also express my appreciation to the presence of family physicians in this workshop which shows their keen interest in recent developments taking place around them. We realize the significant role of family physicians being played for providing Health Care services and we hope their interest in workshops, seminars, symposia for promotion of academic activities in the University shall continue.

In the end I must also thank HEC to provide UHS an opportunity to hold this workshop of great significance. It is a matter of great honour to have with us this morning distinguished Professors, students delegates and representatives of different universities and institutions.

I am grateful to the Organiser of the workshop Miss Arroj Fatima from HEC and to Col. Javed Iqbal, Director (Admin & Coord), Syed Khurram Mahmood, Director IT for making necessary arrangements. I wish all success in deliberations of the workshop and hope outcome will be of immense value.