



## UHS honours Irish experts as emergency training enters new phase

**Health professionals must be trained to save lives, says health minister**

Nov 26: The University of Health Sciences (UHS) held a ceremony to pay tribute to the visiting Irish delegation, honouring their long-standing contribution to emergency life-saving skills training in Punjab. Prof Shane Knox, who has led this collaboration for over a decade, was awarded the UHS Medal of Excellence for his remarkable efforts in training health professionals across the province. The Minister for Specialised Healthcare and Medical Education, Khawaja Salman Rafique, presided over the event. He said UHS had become one of the most vital institutions in the country, adding that saving human life must remain the top priority. "Training our health professionals in life-saving skills is no longer

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**Irish experts open Irish-UHS Skills Lab to train future lifesavers**



## UHS workshop focuses on advancing clinical nutrition skills

Nov 5: The Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, under the UHS Institute of Allied Health Sciences, organized a workshop on “Advancing Clinical Nutrition Skills and Case-Based Learning” as part of the Discipline-Specific Faculty Council Initiative (Phase II).

Addressing the participants, UHS Vice Chancellor Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore said that BS Human Nutrition and Dietetics degree program at the university aims to prepare graduates with strong clinical and community-based nutrition competencies.

Prof. Rathore emphasized the need for curricular reforms that bring clinical rotations from the first year of studies, allowing students to gain hands-on exposure early in their academic journey. He also highlighted the ongoing UNICEF–Nutrition Curricular Reforms Project, under which UHS nutrition faculty members are serving as core committee members. Earlier, Dr. Syed Muneeb Gillani, Principal, Institute of Allied Health Sciences, Avicenna Medical College, delivered a talk on “Building Clinical Nutrition Competencies: From Assessment to Intervention”, underscoring the role of evidence-based practice in improving patient outcomes.

Ms. Rimsha Fatima, Assistant Professor at FMH Institute of Allied Health Sciences, spoke on “Effective Use of Case-Based Learning in Clinical Nutrition”, explaining how interactive case discussions foster critical thinking and clinical reasoning among students.

The workshop was coordinated by Ms. Anam Saeed, Ms. Nayab Fatima and Ms. Moha Akram.

## Workshop focuses on advancing clinical expertise in speech and language pathology

Nov 03: The workshop, titled “Enhancing Clinical Expertise in Dysphagia Management through Facilitated Practical Training,” brought together faculty members from various affiliated institutions for an interactive learning experience.

UHS VC Prof. Dr. Ahsan Waheed Rathore shared his vision for promoting Speech and Language Pathology through national and international training initiatives. He emphasized the importance of equipping faculty with specialized skills and continuous professional development through the Department of Medical Education at UHS.



Prof. Rathore underscored the role of collaboration, evidence-based practice, and feedback from faculty in strengthening the discipline. He said that such initiatives reflect UHS’s commitment to advancing academic standards and improving clinical outcomes. The session was led by Ms. Anam Ashraf, Consultant Speech and Language Pathologist, who facilitated hands-on training in dysphagia management.







## Session highlights technology-driven future of laboratory medicine

Nov 26: UHS Institute of Allied Health Sciences held the DSFC MLT activity gathering experts to discuss new directions in laboratory medicine and the increasing influence of technology in diagnostics. Scientific discussions centred on automation, method validation and data-driven laboratory practices. Dr Muhammad Zubair from the Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI) delivered the first talk on Total Laboratory Automation, explaining how automation reduces human error, enhances diagnostic precision and aligns laboratories with modern accreditation standards. Prof Dr Muhammad Asif Naveed followed with a session on instrument validation, stressing that accurate results rely on proper pre-analytical steps, reliable equipment and a trained workforce. Dr Rukhsana Tumrani concluded with a presentation on digital dashboards and real-time data analytics, saying these tools improve workflow and support informed decision-making. In his closing remarks, the Vice Chancellor of UHS appreciated the participation of MLT faculty from affiliated colleges and called such initiatives essential for raising standards in Allied Health Sciences.

## Faculty honoured

Dr Lamia Yousaf, Director Medical Education at University of Health Sciences (UHS), has been awarded the M.H. Qazi Certificate of Merit in Curriculum Development. The award was presented at the closing ceremony of the 9th International Conference on Health Professions Education, on October 25, 2025, at University of Lahore (UoL).



Minister for Health and Population Punjab, Khawaja Imran Nazir presented the certificate. Dr Lamia has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to curriculum design, particularly her role in developing the new BS Nursing curriculum at UHS. The award reflects her dedication to academic innovation and health professions education.



## FACULTY MEETINGS IN CLINICAL DISCIPLINES

### Neurosurgery

Nov 27: The Department of Neurosurgery, Allama Iqbal Medical College, Lahore, served as the first academic host of the inaugural meeting of the Neurosurgery Discipline Specific Faculty Council (DSFC) at UHS. Four clinically rich cases were presented that aimed at improving surgical decision-making and strengthening treatment protocols across institutions.

UHS Director Postgraduate Department (DPS) Prof Muhammad Asif Naveed welcomed participants and encouraged faculty to contribute actively towards clinical audit, curriculum enhancement and procedural guidelines for neurosurgical care. Prof. Fauzia Sajjad, Head, Department of Neurosurgery, AIMC, presented a case on neuroendoscopy, featuring a colloid cystic lesion of the third ventricle and a microadenoma, underlining the transition from conventional surgery to minimally invasive endoscopic approaches for improved patient outcomes. Dr Nabeel Choudhary, Assoc. Prof, Department of Neurosurgery, AIMC, discussed a revision endonasal surgery that resulted in bilateral ptosis, focusing on perioperative challenges and anatomical risk zones during skull base procedures. Dr Habib Sultan, Asst. Prof., Department of Neurosurgery, AIMC, presented a case of childhood trauma resulting in head tilt and left-sided weakness, drawing attention to early neurological

assessment and long-term functional rehabilitation pathways.

Dr Muhammad Bilal Anwer and Dr Ghulam Naseer Uddin, senior registrars, Department of Neurosurgery, AIMC, presented cases on standard management of intracranial AVMs and skin stigmata, covering diagnostic algorithms, grading systems and multidisciplinary treatment protocols.

Prof. Muhammad Irfan, Head, Department of Neurosurgery, Abwa Medical College, Faisalabad, shared expert commentary during case discussions and emphasised the need for structured data sharing and protocol-based practice across institutions.

### Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Nov 20: The session was organised by the Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, led by Prof Dr Asif Naveed, which brought together faculty from 45 affiliated medical institutions across Punjab. More than 150 faculty members attended the session, including senior obstetricians and gynaecologists from across the province. The programme featured high-impact



lectures and interactive case discussions, including:

- Prof Tayyiba Waseem delivering a state-of-the-art lecture on Endometriosis: Latest Evidence & Innovations
- Prof Farhat Naz leading a case-based discussion on Placenta Accreta Spectrum (PAS), focusing on diagnostic challenges

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and management

- Prof Faiqa Saleem Baig discussing evidence-based strategies for managing PCOS in adolescence

Prof Sumera Badar Ehsan, Head, Department of Medical Education, stressed the need for structured teaching, integrated learning, and modern educational practices to improve outcomes for both faculty and trainees.

## **Pediatric Medicine**

Nov 28: The inaugural Pediatric Medicine Disciplinary Specific Faculty Council (DSFC) session was academically supported by Allama Iqbal Medical College (AIMC). More than 100 participants joined the session, both in person and online.

Two complex cases were presented during the session: Dengue Myocarditis by Assistant Professor Dr Sultan Ali, and Dengue with Malaria (falciparum and vivax) by Associate Professor Dr Mobin.

The presentations prompted detailed clinical discussion among participants. Prof. Najaf Masood highlighted the emerging challenge of partial resistance to Artesunate and spoke about the growing need to use multiple antibiotics to manage concurrent infections. The interactive discussions brought fresh perspectives on treatment strategies and emphasized the importance of evidence-based decision-making in pediatric care.

UHS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore underscored the urgency of updating treatment protocols, strengthening medical training, and giving greater focus to neonatal resuscitation. He called for a deeper sense of professional responsibility among clinicians to enhance healthcare delivery across Pakistan.







# MBBS/BDS Admissions



## Internal Medicine

Nov 19: The first meeting of its Discipline Specific Faculty Council (DSFC) for Internal Medicine was held in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Medical College. Distinguished physicians, senior faculty members and experts from across Punjab attended the session.

Pro Vice Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem described the session as a landmark step toward building academic partnerships. Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore said the initiative was aimed at supporting professional development of faculty and improving patient care, teaching practices and assessment of students.

With academic support from Allama Iqbal Medical College, two clinical cases were presented during the session. Prof Shahid Sarwar and his team discussed a case of fever and loss of consciousness, correlating it with SIADH, while Prof Tahir Bashir's team presented a case of severe dengue haemorrhagic fever, highlighting diagnostic and management gaps that may lead to complications.



## Centralized admissions into MBBS, BDS start in Punjab

Nov 07: The University of Health Sciences (UHS) has started receiving online applications for admission to public and private sector medical and dental colleges across Punjab.

According to a UHS notification, candidates seeking admission to public sector medical colleges can submit their applications until November 30, while the deadline for private medical colleges has been set at December 15.

For public sector dental colleges, the application deadline is December 31, whereas candidates applying for BDS programmes in private dental colleges will be able to submit their online forms until January 15, 2026.

UHS will complete the centralized admissions to MBBS and BDS degree programs in both public and private sector medical and dental colleges as per PMDC Regulations and Punjab Government's Admission Policy for the Session 2025-26.

Moreover, applications for admissions on reserved (quota) seats for students of other provinces and regions in public medical and dental colleges of Punjab will be accepted from December 1 to 15 through the online portal of the University of Health Sciences (UHS).













## Seminar explores immune responses in Dengue and SARS-CoV-2

Nov 21: The Department of Immunology at the University of Health Sciences hosted a thematic seminar titled "Immune Modulation in Dengue and SARS-CoV-2: Parallels in Pathogenesis and Protection", bringing researchers and clinicians together to examine how the immune system behaves across two major viral infections. Three scientific talks were delivered by Dr Zainab Tufail and Dr Abdul Nafeh of Sialkot Medical College, and Dr Aqsa Wajid of the University of Child Health Sciences Lahore. They spoke on immune modulation in viral infections, with focused presentations on Dengue and SARS-CoV-2. Their discussions prompted active participation from faculty and trainees, especially on immunopathogenesis, laboratory diagnostics, curriculum refinement and the scope of translational research. Participants also reviewed the need for more collaborative studies on immune mechanisms that could support clinical practice and public health planning.

## Curriculum reform in special pathology under CURE initiative

Nov 19: The University of Health Sciences, under its CURE (Curriculum Review & Enhancement) initiative, held the second meeting of the Discipline-Specific Faculty Council (DSFC) for



Special Pathology. The session was organised by the Department of Histopathology and focused on reviewing the 4th-year MBBS Special Pathology curriculum.

Heads and faculty members from more than 33 affiliated medical colleges attended the meeting. Their feedback and participation were described as crucial in identifying gaps and strengthening academic content. The timely input received from institutions will help address challenges related to teaching methodologies and interpretation of the curriculum.

The efforts of the Core Committee comprising Prof Atika Masood (Akhtar Saeed Medical and Dental College Lahore), Prof Shahila Jalil (Sheikh Khalifa Bin Annahyan Medical College Lahore), Prof Samiullah (Islam Medical College Sialkot), Prof Amna Jahan (Allama Iqbal Medical College Lahore), Prof Sumera Ehsan (HOD Medical Education Department, UHS), Dr Farah Rehman (Associate Professor, Medical Education Department UHS) and Dr Lamia Yusuf (Director Medical Education, UHS) were appreciated. The Histopathology Department at UHS was also commended for its role in coordinating the review process.





## Syndicate restores 50pc passing marks, 75pc attendance criteria

Nov 4: The University of Health Sciences (UHS) has restored the 50 percent passing marks and 75 percent attendance conditions for all professional examinations, including MBBS and BDS, in line with the latest PMDC notification. The decision was taken at the 93rd meeting of the UHS Syndicate, chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore, and will apply across all undergraduate programs, replacing last year's 65 percent passing and 85 percent attendance policy.

The syndicate approved extensions in affiliation for the Central Park College of Allied Health Sciences for its BS programs, and endorsed affiliation for the University of Child Health, Lahore, and the Faisalabad Institute of Cardiology for MS Paediatric and Congenital Cardiac Surgery.

A Policy for the Prevention of Cyber-Based Cheating in Examinations was passed to stop the use of electronic devices in exam halls, along with new terms of reference for supervisory staff. On the Academic Council's recommendation, all written exams will shift to an MCQ-only format from next year to promote fairness and objectivity. Four new postgraduate programs were also approved: MD Hematology, MD Microbiology, MD Histopathology, and MS Glaucoma.



## Workshop on MCQ-Based Assessment for Nursing Faculty

Nov 05: The University of Health Sciences (UHS) Lahore has transitioned from short answer questions (SAQs) to multiple choice questions (MCQs) in professional assessments. To support this shift, the Directorate of Medical Education conducted a capacity-building workshop for principals and faculty members of nursing colleges across Punjab. The workshop aimed to familiarize participants with the Question Bank System and the art of constructing quality MCQs. The session was attended by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Nadia Naseem, Prof. Ayesha Humayun, Prof. Samina, Prof. Uzma Zargham, Director IT Mr. Masud, and Director Medical Education Dr. Lamia Yousaf. Prof. Ayesha Humayun conducted hands-on training for the participants. Around 80 faculty members from nursing colleges across Punjab attended the workshop.







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optional. It is the need of the moment,” he remarked. He said that under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz, major improvements were being made in the health sector. The minister was also presented the UHS Medal of Excellence in recognition of his support to the emergency training initiative.

The Irish delegation was led by Prof Shane Knox, Director of Paramedicine at University College Cork, accompanied by Mr Desmond Wade and Mr Pdraig Glynn, experts in paramedicine, urgent care and community health. They spent three days reviewing the emergency life-saving training being conducted across Punjab.

Certificates of Membership of the International Advisory Board and the title of “Emeritus Mentor of Emergency Skills” were conferred on Prof Shane Knox and Mr Macartan Hughes of the National Ambulance Service College, Dublin. Mr Hughes received the honour in absentia.

Prof Knox said he had personally witnessed the training of faculty and students and found the standards highly impressive. “What UHS is doing will save not hundreds but thousands of lives,” he said, expressing full satisfaction with the course structure and delivery.

UHS Vice Chancellor Prof Ahsan Waheed Rathore announced that from this year onward, students in all medical colleges would be trained in six emergency life-saving skill modules. “Every health professional will now become a responder. This will change emergency care in Punjab,” he said. So far,

more than 1,000 faculty members from 44 medical colleges have been trained in line with international standards.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Nadia Naseem shared that the next phase would cover 20,000 students across 220 medical, nursing and allied health colleges. She said all courses, including BLS, Cardiac First Response, Neonatal and Immediate Trauma Care, had been developed according to Irish training standards.

PIC Chairman and Advisor to Chief Minister on Child Heart Surgery, Prof. Farqad Alamgir, DG Rescue 1122 Dr Rizwan Naseer, Prof Sarah Ghafoor, Prof Farooq Butt, Dr Zahid Pervaiz and senior faculty members were among those present.

Over the past decade, UHS has trained thousands of health professionals in Basic Life Support through its partnership with the National Ambulance Service College, Dublin.

## Skill Lab..... Continued from Page 14

are confident in handling real emergencies from day one,” the VC stated.

The Irish delegation visited each simulation station, observed demonstrations and reviewed the evaluation tools. They appreciated the structured protocols, checklists for competency assessment and the multi-disciplinary approach where doctors, nurses and paramedics are taught together in team-based emergency scenarios.

Prof. Knox said that what UHS is building here will eventually reshape emergency care delivery in hospitals.





## Irish experts review emergency training at Sheikhpura and SIMS

Irish experts began their tour with a visit to DHQ Hospital Sheikhpura on November 24 as part of the ongoing initiative of UHS and the PMU, Health and Population Department. Accompanied by Prof Sarah Ghafoor, Dr Lamia Yousaf and Dr Midhat Suleman, they evaluated the Cardiac First Response/Basic Life Support workshop for doctors, consultants and nurses. Prof Shane Knox demonstrated airway management techniques and stressed that CPR should begin even outside hospital settings. Quality assurance officer Padraig Glynn commended the simulation equipment and the training framework developed by UHS. On November 26, the delegation visited the Services Institute of Medical Sciences (SIMS), Lahore, an affiliated college of UHS, where they observed students being trained in six emergency



life-saving skills. The experts appreciated the standard of training and said such initiatives will enable every future doctor to respond in real emergencies.







## IRB reviews 14 postgraduate research proposals

Nov 13: University of Health Sciences' Directorate of Postgraduate Studies (DPS) held a meeting of the Institutional Review Board (IRB) with Prof Dr Nisar Ahmad presiding.

The Board reviewed 14 research synopses from various postgraduate programs, including eight from MSN students, two from MHPE, one from MPhil Chemical Pathology and one from MPhil Biochemistry.

Senior faculty members, including Prof Ayesha Humayun, Prof Sadia Shahzad, Prof Uruj Zahra, Prof Allah Rakha, Prof Muhammad Shahzad, Prof Sidrah Saleem, Prof Sumera Ehsan and Prof Asif Naveed, along with Dr Asad Ashraf, attended the meeting.

The Board evaluated each proposal for ethical and academic standards and shared suggestions for improvement.

## UHS faculty certified

Nov 25: The Irish delegation certified 30 UHS faculty members – from lecturers to professors – as official instructors after assessing their performance in workshops on Emergency Triage, Treatment & Assessment and Cardiac First Response / BLS.

Prof Shane praised their enthusiasm and



command of knowledge, noting how they were quizzing each other during the sessions. These certified instructors will now serve as quality assurance managers for the six mandatory skill trainings across all UHS-affiliated medical, dental, nursing and allied health sciences colleges.

## Shaping the Future of Physical Therapy Education

Nov 18: The second phase of DCFC in Physical Therapy focused on curriculum review and



academic advancement in the discipline. Principals, heads of departments and faculty members from UHS and affiliated institutions attended the seminar.

The speakers were Dr Zahid Mahmood Bhatti, Associate Professor at Bakhtawar Amin Medical and Dental College, Multan; Dr Wajida Perveen, Associate Professor and Head of DPT at the School of Allied Health Sciences, CMH Lahore Medical College; and Dr Wajeeha Mahmood, Senior Physiotherapist at UHS.





## Irish-UHS Emergency Skills Lab inaugurated

Nov 25: A three-member Irish team from National Ambulance Service College, Dublin, inaugurated a state-of-the-art Skill Lab at the UHS Jinnah Campus, Kala Shah Kaku. The facility is equipped with high-fidelity mannequins designed for advanced simulation-based training to prepare trainer faculty from medical colleges across Punjab.

The Irish team included Prof. Dr. Shane Knox, Director of Paramedicine and Adjunct Clinical Professor at University College Cork, Ireland, Mr. Desmond Wade, Regional Education and Competency Assurance Officer (Advanced Paramedic) and Assistant Professor, and Mr. Padraig Glynn, Practice Development Lead – Urgent Care & Community Paramedicine and Assistant Professor at University College Cork.

UHS Vice Chancellor Prof. Ahsan Waheed Rathore, senior faculty members and master trainers from the Professional Skill Development Centre (PSDC) were

present at the ceremony. The VC briefed the delegation on the simulation-based model that UHS has adopted for training, assessment and standardisation of emergency life-saving skills.

Speaking at the inauguration, Prof. Shane Knox said that the Skill Lab reflects international standards of medical simulation.

“The level of fidelity in these mannequins allows students to make real clinical decisions in a safe environment. This is the future of medical education, where theory and critical response merge in real time. UHS has demonstrated that it understands how essential this training is for patient safety and quality care,” he said.

The Skill Lab houses high-fidelity simulators for cardiac arrest management, trauma resuscitation, neonatal emergencies and obstetric crises. Trainers have undergone structured competency-based modules, after which they have completed training for final-year students in their medical colleges. The facility also includes digital monitoring systems for performance assessment and debriefing. Prof. Rathore said that the lab would become a central hub for emergency preparedness across Punjab. “This centre represents a shift from conventional teaching to hands-on, immersive learning. Our aim is to train the trainer across Punjab so that every medical college produces graduates who

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