

ZIAUDDIN UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER



**PATIENT & PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT
AND ENGAGEMENT
GROUP (PPIE)**

FOURTH EDITION



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BOARD**

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NEWS

WELCOME TO THE PPIE NEWSLETTER

ANNOUNCING A NEW COLLABORATION!

Our PPIE initiative is pleased to announce a new major collaboration with the International Severe Acute Respiratory Infections Consortium (ISARIC)! Over the next five years, we will work with ISARIC to bring the patient voice into infectious disease research while continuing our work to make research more relevant and beneficial to the community in Karachi.

Find out more about ISARIC, our collaboration and projects in this newsletter. At the end, you'll also read about our recent events and our newest PPIE coordinator.

ISARIC

The consortium brings together global partners with an aim to improve patients' care before, during and after infectious disease pandemics. Over 10 years, ISARIC and partners have carried out research in COVID-19, dengue, Ebola, Lassa fever, monkeypox and plague. Four regional Hubs lead this global work - The South Asia Hub is located in Pakistan and led by our own Prof Madiha Hashmi, the head of the Critical Care Research Group (CCRG).



PPIE X ISARIC X CCRG



Our coordinators and members have come up with an ambitious 5-year plan in collaboration with ISARIC to make sure infectious disease research is acceptable, relevant and impactful for the South Asian public. The plan focuses particularly on dengue and infectious encephalitis (swelling of the brain) that are significant health issues in Pakistan. This collaboration allows our group to work with multiple international teams to promote the community voice globally.

NEWS

CREDO COURSE

Our PPIE group contributed significantly to the 1st Clinical Research During Outbreaks (CREDO) Training course organized by ISARIC and CCRG. One of our inspirational public members, Shehla, talked about community perspectives of COVID-19 while our coordinators Arishay and Prof Nikhat presented about the value of PPIE. Another one of our coordinators, Timo, acted as course faculty and helped the scholars come up with high-quality research proposals that incorporate meaningful public engagement.



OUR PRIORITIES

Together with clinicians, marketing specialists and communities to come up with events, videos and educational materials to provide trustworthy and easy to understand information to the public about dengue. If you have any ideas - Get in touch with us @ppie@zu.edu.pk!

OUR RECENT EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Global Webinar

Our coordinator (Arishay) and member (Zahyd) presented during an online webinar to 200 people from 60 countries - Watch the webinar recording on our website.

Advisory Groups for Research in India, Pakistan and Vietnam

27/03/2025 - 08:30 GMT | 13:30 PKT | 14:00 IST | 15:30 ICT



Chair: Timo Tolppa

Speakers: Pradeep Narayanan, Arishay Hussaini, Huong Van Thuy Qui and Zahyd Shuja

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THE GLOBAL HEALTH NETWORK



Register

NEWS

Clinical Trials Summit of Pakistan

We shared our story and achievements at the first national clinical trials summit at Aga Khan University.



PPIE Blog Post

Have you seen the blog written by our own Arishay about PPIE? Check it out on our website!



Enhancing Public and Patient Involvement: The Collaborative Efforts of Pakistan Institute of Living and Learning and Ziauddin University

OTHER EVENTS:



**26TH JANUARY
2025**

Met with a team in India to help set up their PPIE group.

**1ST FEBRUARY
2025**

Shared findings from our consent work in a Canadian Trials Summit



**19TH FEBRUARY
2025**

Contributed to the development of a global encephalitis protocol

**17TH MARCH
2025**

Lecture on PPIE in research for a network of Southeast Asian investigators



MESSAGE FROM OUR NEWEST PPIE COORDINATOR!



We're so excited to welcome Dr. Maham Jawaid Ahmed to our PPIE team as our newest coordinator! Dr. Maham is a clinical research assistant and study coordinator in the Critical Care Research Group, with experience in conducting a variety of research projects. With an interest in psychiatry and a commitment to making research accessible and meaningful, she's eager to dive into this role, working

on creating materials that connect with diverse communities and help bridge the gap between research and the real world.

When she's not busy making strides in research, you'll probably find Dr. Maham exploring new coffee spots, trying out the trendiest restaurants, or obsessively curating her Spotify playlists. She's also known for her love of pop culture

and a knack for discovering the next big binge-worthy show. We can't wait to see Dr. Maham's ideas and creativity in action as she joins the PPIE group—welcome aboard!

I first came across PPIE in 2024, when I started working as a research assistant. I hadn't heard of it before, but the more I learned, the more it made sense — and the more interested I became. PPIE is a really important way of bridging the gap between what patients actually need and how healthcare professionals approach care. Research plays such a big role in shaping treatment, so it only makes sense that the people it's meant to help should be part of the process too.

It's a way of thinking that's stuck with me — especially as I have an interest in psychiatry, where understanding someone's experience often matters just as much as the clinical side. Overall, PPIE has become something I really care about. I've found it both rewarding and eye-opening, and it makes me want to be a better researcher and doctor.