

SUMMARY REPORT

2ND National PPIE

Summit 2025 Awaz se Aaghaz

 1st November, 2025



EVENT OVERVIEW

Ziauddin University, in collaboration with the International Severe Acute Respiratory and emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC), convened the 2nd National Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) Summit - 'Awaz se Aaghaz' in Karachi on 1st November 2025. The programme comprised two components:

- A workshop with collaborating institutions to discuss the development of a national PPIE network,
- A public event announcing the network and hosting a series of talks and a panel discussion on PPIE in health research in Pakistan.

IN-PERSON
56

VIRTUAL
26

PURPOSE

To initiate dialogue on the name, mission, vision, governance structure, and core activities of a national PPIE network for Pakistan, and to begin building capacity for public engagement in health research.



KEY THEMES

- **Establishing a National PPIE Network:** Participants discussed foundational elements of the network, including its name, purpose, governance model, and early operational priorities.
- **Meaningful Inclusion of Patients and the Public in Research:** The Summit highlighted the importance of shifting research culture so that patients, caregivers, and the public can be equal partners in the design, conduct and dissemination of research.
- **Institutional Collaboration and Partnerships:** The Summit brought together national institutions, policymakers, international experts, and community groups to build a collaborative PPIE ecosystem. This includes networking events, partner opportunities, and creating a platform for shared learning and collective action.
- **Alignment with National Regulatory Bodies:** Discussions emphasised the relevance of engaging organisations such as IRBs, DRAP, and the Ministry of Health to strengthen the policy environment for PPIE.

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

The workshop featured small group discussions where representatives from national collaborating institutions and existing patient and public partners contributed to shaping the proposed network's mission, values, strategic activities, and governance model.

Each group nominated a representative to form an Interim Council, tasked with providing short-term guidance and supporting next steps toward formalising the network.

A keynote address by Dr Baber Saeed Khan, followed by a panel discussion, highlighted practical experiences, challenges, and opportunities for strengthening PPIE in Pakistan. Active audience participation through open discussion and questions further enriched the exchange of ideas and deepened collective understanding.

REFLECTIONS

(Dr. Baber Saeed Khan, Director of the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) at the National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS) and Founder of the ACRP Ambassadors Club Pakistan)

"This Summit reminded us that true public involvement is more than a process — it's the foundation for trust, transparency, and research that genuinely reflects the needs and lived realities of our communities."

(Prof. Dr. Madiha Hashmi, Chair of Critical Care Medicine at Ziauddin University)

"This Summit reinforced a powerful message: patients' voices must guide our national research efforts. By closing the gap between researchers and the public, we are building trust and creating a shared space where decisions are informed, inclusive, and meaningful for everyone."

(Prof. Nikhat Ahmed Siddiqui, Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences & Chair of the Department of Biosciences at Barrett Hodgson University)

"This Summit marked the beginning of a new chapter in health research—one where lived experience is part of every stage of the process. The National PPIE Group will help unify voices, set standards, and move from passive involvement to true partnership, ensuring meaningful and lasting impact."



ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

- Ziauddin University:** Ziauddin University is an HEC-recognised, degree-awarding institution established to promote the advancement of knowledge in health sciences through excellence in teaching, research, and public service. Ziauddin University is committed to providing sustainable solutions for global challenges through education, research, and practice. (<https://zu.edu.pk/>)
- Critical Care Research Group (CCRG):** The CCRG led by Prof. Madiha Hashmi, represents a hub of excellence in critical care research. The multidisciplinary team includes clinicians, biological scientists, data scientists, and data collectors, dedicated to improving outcomes for patients in intensive care through innovative, evidence-based research. From clinical trials to translational research, they are committed to advancing the understanding and treatment of critically ill patients. (<https://zu.edu.pk/ccrg/>)
- International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC):** ISARIC is dedicated to reducing illness and deaths from infectious disease outbreaks. As a global federation of clinical research networks, its main focus is to strengthen the agency of investigators in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, enhance the quality and impact of clinical research studies, and improve clinical research agility and readiness for future outbreaks. (<https://isaric.org>)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the National PPIE Summit 2025 – Awaz se Aaghaz. This event would not have been possible without the dedication, passion, and support of individuals and teams working behind the scenes and on the frontlines.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

- Dr. Madiha Hashmi
- Dr. Timo Tolppa
- Dr. Nikhat Ahmed Siddiqui
- Dr. Arishay Hussaini
- Dr. Wardah Khalid
- Mr. Faraz Khan

FACILITATORS

- Prof. Phaik Yeong Cheah
- Prof. Nikhat Ahmed Siddiqui
- Dr. Arishay Hussaini
- Dr. Wardah Khalid
- Dr. Alina Raheem
- Mr. Richard Stephens
- Mr. Ahmed Nayeem
- Ms. Aasma Khan
- Ms. Shahnaz Zaman

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

1. Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (SKMCH&RC), Lahore
2. Pakistan Kidney & Liver Institute and Research Center (PKLI&RC), Lahore
3. Northwest General Hospital & Research Centre (NWGH&RC), Peshawar
4. Chughtai Institute of Pathology, Lahore
5. Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Medical and Dental College (SKZMDC), Lahore
6. National University of Medical Sciences (NUMS), Rawalpindi
7. Indus Hospital and Health Network (IHHN), Karachi
8. Shalamar Institute of Health Science (SIHS), Lahore
9. Sindh Institute of Advanced Endoscopy and Gastroenterology (SIAG), Karachi
10. Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH), Karachi
11. Sindh Infectious Disease Hospital and Research Centre (SIDH&RC), Karachi
12. Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), Karachi.
13. Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), Islamabad.

CONCLUSION

The 2nd National PPIE Summit, Awaz se Aaghaz, served as an important milestone in efforts to establish a coordinated national approach to patient and public involvement in health research in Pakistan. Outcomes from the workshop discussions and the formation of the Interim Council will guide the next steps in formalising the national PPIE network



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