Internationally renowned surgeons and medical experts have called for a more open and transparent approach to the field of surgery. The international symposium on "Endo-minimal invasive surgery (MIS)" organized by the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT) was held in Pakistan. Several leading surgeons and medical experts addressed the gathering, highlighting the importance of innovation and the need for a more open approach to surgical education and practice.

International renowned, visiting Professor Prokar Dasgupta of Guy’s Hospital and King’s College London UK who pioneered modern robotic surgery in UK was the main speaker. As an internationally known authority in the field of robotic surgery, he expressed the present status of robotic surgery and the future challenges that confront this specialized segment of medical sciences.

Prof. Dasgupta, who is also the Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious British Journal of Urology International, presented his views of improving the quality of the journal. He outlined the general points for authors who wish to submit their papers for publication to this journal and to enhance the chances of their acceptance for publication. Underlining the importance of occupying space in the journal, he said this would enhance the image of Pakistani medical professionals in the international community. The professor also presented his approach of open fully-educational in a phase manner over the next few years. Another visiting Professor Shamin Khan of Guy’s and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust London UK, presented an overview of the current status of nephrons sparing surgery which has gained momentum in recent years with increasing number of tumors being detected at the earlier stage. Higher prevalence of medical co-morbidities and improvement in minimally invasive surgical approach. Both the esteemed speakers also talked about the importance of improving infection control.

Professor Adib-ul-Hassan Rizvi Director SIUT introduced the speakers and pointed out the importance of robotic surgery and minimal invasive surgery in meeting the challenges of the future.

Diabetes Mellitus, a chronic metabolic disorder, has assumed an epidemic form with 400 million people suffering from the disease all over the world. In this context, a workshop on "Pre- Congress Workshop Preparing Deceased Organ Donor for Transplantation" was organized by the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT). The workshop aimed to provide comprehensive information to healthcare professionals about the process of organ donation and transplantation.

The Transplantation Society of Pakistan (TSP) has asked Secretary Health to file a complaint against a couple accused of allegedly committing sexual assault by inducing a sale and purchase of a human organ.

The action was taken by the Committee on a request received from the TSP, which was based on reports received from the public, who had alleged that a woman was compelled to agree to the sale of her kidney to meet the expenses of her medical treatment.

The President of the Transplantation Society of Pakistan (TSP) subsequently requested the Monitoring Committee to take action in the matter as if the press reports were true and to seek the opinion of the concerned authorities. The TSP has started an investigation into the matter and is awaiting the response from the concerned authorities. The TSP has also requested the Secretary Health to take immediate action to ensure the safety and well-being of the woman.

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Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi and his wife Bilkis Edhi are internationally acclaimed and well-known humanitarian, social workers and one of the most active and notable philanthropists of Pakistan. Both have taken community work, social welfare services and selfless devotion to a new level. Mr. Edhi is the founder and head of the Edhi Foundation, the largest non-profit social welfare organization in Pakistan. Since its inception, the Edhi Foundation has rescued over 10,000 abandoned infants, rehabilitated over 50,000 orphans and has trained over 40,000 nurses. It also runs over 330 welfare centres in rural and urban Pakistan which operate as food kitchens, rehabilitation homes, shelters for abandoned women and children and clinics for the mentally handicapped. Edhi Foundation runs the world’s largest ambulance service and operates free nursing homes, orphanages, clinics, women’s shelters, and rehabilitation centres for drug addicts and mentally disabled individuals. It has also been in relief operations for disasters throughout the world when required.

Together with his wife Bilkis Edhi, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award and has also received several national & international awards & Honoris viz Lien Foundation Peace Prize, An honoris causa degree of Doctor of Social Service Management for his service in the field of social service at Universities Islamic University Karachi, an honorary degree of Doctorate by the University of Bradford, Nisan-e-Ahmadi to name a few.

Abdul Sattar Edhi and Bilkis Edhi Transplant operation theatre complex comprises of 5 operating rooms, 6 bedded ICU and recovery, patient holding area, and a central sterile supply department (CSSD). The complex has been equipped with state of art Laminar Air Flow System recommended for transplantation surgery ensuring sterility and hygiene of the internal environment of the theatre.

On this occasion renowned social workers and great humanitarians Mr. Abdul Sattar Edhi, Mrs. Bilquis Edhi and their son Mr. Faisal Edhi were the guests of honor.

Prof. Abid Hasan Rizvi Director SIUT, in his welcome address highly appreciated and lauded this benevolent gesture of Edhi family’s support of building this state of the art surgical theatre complex. He said that the complex shall be of immense value and benefit to the kidney failure population of the country providing perpetual sources of a most modern and high tech transplantation surgical facility for which SIUT is most grateful. Referring to the recent incident at the Edhi Foundation, Dr. Rizvi said that it reflected the pathetic and deplorable prevailing societal values that even people like Edhi Sahab have also not been spared from such nefarious activities. He said nowadays whole society is in a fragmented and degenerated state. Human values are frequently violated without any fear. In these circumstances, few people like Mr. and Mrs. Edhi shine like beacon who have selflessly dedicated their entire lives for uplifting humanity. They have taken community work, social welfare services and compassion to a new level. Maulana Edhi said in his entire life he has served humanity without any discrimination of cast, color, creed, ethnicity, language or religion. He was optimistic that this O.T complex will be of help to thousands of needy and ailing patients who will get their transplant done free and with dignity. Mrs. Bilquis Edhi and Mr. Faisal Edhi also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier Prof. Manzoor Hussain gave an overview of the facility with the help of video presentation.

**SAILENT FEATURES OF ABDUL SATTAR EDHI & BILQUIS EDHI TRANSPANTATION OPERATION THEATRE COMPLEX**

- A dedicated and purpose built facility, exclusively for performing living and deceased organ transplantation surgeries.
- State of the art, high tech operation theatre complex built in accordance to the latest medical structural demands and guidelines.
- Houses 5 separate and independent operating rooms, 6 bedded ICU, Patient recovery area, Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD).
- 3 transplants can be carried out simultaneously.
- Equipped with state of the art Laminar Air Flow System recommended for Transplant Surgery, ensuring sterility of the internal environment.

**RECORD OF SERVICES AT SIUT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2014 TO DECEMBER 2014**

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<th>Out Patient Department (OPD)</th>
<th>Admissions at SIUT</th>
<th>Operation Theatre (Out &amp; In)</th>
<th>Transplant</th>
<th>Laboratory Investigations</th>
<th>Haemodialysis</th>
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A three days International Bioinformatics Workshop was held at Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation - SIUT in collaboration with COMSTEC.

The workshop’s main objective was to present a hands-on approach to the online Ensembl bioinformatics resources and to introduce command line based tools for analyses of whole genome sequencing data regarding biological research for students, post-doctoral fellows and teachers.

An introduction to the Ensembl Genome Browser with practical demonstrations and exercises using the human genome as a reference was done. Analyses of high throughput genotyping and whole genome human sequencing data was also presented with overall aim of promoting bioinformatics and research in the life sciences. Only human genomic sequencing data was analyzed during the training, whereas the same techniques can be used to analyze any data generated by next generation sequencing.

The workshop introduced and trained researchers and clinicians in the use of internet resources to analyze the vast amount of genetic data produced through high throughput genomic sequencing. The advent of a genomic revolution in the last few years has made a number of discoveries possible in both the research and medical sciences arena. The latest findings will deliver a great deal of benefits and improvements in the quality of life of the common man through personalized diagnosis and treatment.

The current genomic information will be possible to predict and monitor one’s susceptibility to a particular disease or infection, thereby allowing for appropriate interventions to reduce painful and expensive diagnostic tests and treatments. The requirement for genetic tests to diagnose the disease and the increased accuracy of prescribing drugs that will be effective for a particular individual will reduce expenses and increase the chances for recovering faster.

The workshop provided the expertise and updated knowledge for Pakistani researchers and physicians to translate the genetic information into everyday clinical practice.

The instructors of the workshop included Dr. Qasim Ayub Staff Scientist, Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Hinxton, UK, Dr. Vincenza Colonna, Research Scientist, National Research Council, Institute of Genetics and Biophysics, Naples, Italy, Dr. Luca Pagani Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Biological Anthropology University of Cambridge, UK and Dr. Denise Carvalho-Silva (Virtual Lecturer) Ensembl Outreach Officer EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute Hinxton, UK. An online lecture was also delivered by Dr. Giulia Stringhini Ensembl Outreach Project Leader, EMBL-European Bioinformatics Institute Cambridge, UK.

The focal point from SIUT was Dr. Syed Qasim Mehdi HEC Distinguished National Professor Centre for Human Genetics and Molecular Medicine SIUT.

SIUT organizes a certificate giving ceremony for student volunteer program.

The week long program attracts school and college going students of the city who take part in variety of activities related to patient care. The program is our annual feature of SIUT and extremely popular in the student community of Karachi. The proceedings began with a two minutes silence which was observed in the memory of the martyrs of the recent Peshawar School tragedy.

Prof. Abid Hussain Rizvi, Director, SIUT, speaking at the certificate giving ceremony said that the program is essential for students at this stage of life as they would learn to understand the problems which would bring a positive change not only in themselves but also in the entire society in general. He said that the students during their attachment at the hospital are informed about the guidelines of patient-care in the field of Radiology, Clinical laboratory, Dialysis, Transplantation, Urology and other medical & surgical services, taught the core principles of community service. Underlining the importance of Community service in society, Prof. Rizvi said it not only refines the person but also provides solace and peace of life, for thousand students representing various educational institutions from all over Pakistan have attended and completed the program. The current batch 130 students attended the program and completed one week training comprising of total 30 hours duration.

The ceremony was attended by a large number of parents, teachers and students.

SIUT North America, Inc.

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This NEWSLETTER is a quarterly publication. For further information and correspondence please contact the Editor at Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation (SIUT), Civil Hospital, Karachi-74060, Pakistan.

This year, we need Rs. 2.5 billion to keep the largest centre for Urology, Nephrology, G.I. and Hepatobiliary, Oncology and Transplantation alive, healthy and moving forward. Please help us again.


You can deposit your cash or cheque (Donation or Zakat) for “SIUT” in all the branches of the banks all over Pakistan.

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