

Minutes of the Meeting

11th August 2024, Manchester

Attendees:

- Dr. Fraz
- Dr. Riaz (Plastic Surgeon)
- Dr. Nudrat
- Dr. Najaf (General Surgeon, Robotic Colorectal Surgeon)
- Professor Shad (Neuro-Endovascular and Stroke Surgery)
- Dr. Rizwan Qureshi
- Dr. Nauman Ehsan
- Mr. Shahid Sahu
- Other EC/EB Members

Agenda:

1. Website Project
2. Plastic Surgery and Paediatrics at Nishtar
3. Gynae Teaching at Nishtar
4. Upcoming Workshops
5. Private Partnership Programme in Pakistan
6. Neurosurgery Equipment Support
7. PLAB Webinar Series
8. Social Events
9. Future Charity Projects
10. Constitutional Matters

1. Website Development Initiative:

- Dr. Fraz shared an update on the website project, stating that the initial plan is to engage a Pakistani web developer due to reduced costs. The minimum cost for developing a decent and presentable website needs to be determined.
- The website is expected to be updated in a few weeks.

2. Plastic Surgery Issues at Nishtar:

- Dr. Riaz highlighted his experience during a visit to Nishtar Hospital, Multan. He raised concerns about the paediatric cases in the burn unit, citing political and personal challenges. These challenges are hampering the organization of training and teaching programs in the unit, with the mortality rate at 50%.
- He stressed the need for realistic expectations when engaging with departments where heads may be uncooperative for various reasons.

3. Gynae Teaching Initiative:

- Dr. Nudrat will take responsibility for organizing Gynaecology teaching sessions at Nishtar Medical University.

4. Upcoming Workshops:

- Dr. Najaf shared that a cancer workshop focused on robotic colorectal surgery will take place at NMC UK in August 2024.
- Professor Shad announced that a neuro-endovascular and stroke surgery workshop, organized by NASSIC, is scheduled for November 2024. He also highlighted issues with the Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA) in the neurosurgery department.

5. General Discussion on Engagement with Pakistan:

- An open debate was held regarding the complexities of engaging with people and institutions in Pakistan, particularly at Nishtar Hospital. The challenges posed by political instability, government infrastructure, and corruption were discussed.
- The group emphasized the need to recognize limitations when working within government hospitals and stressed the importance of carefully selecting future charity projects at Nishtar that are feasible and impactful.

6. Private Partnership Programme in Pakistan:

- Dr. Nauman Ehsan presented a discussion on a private partnership programme aimed at supporting charitable projects in Pakistan. This initiative would help improve educational standards within the existing medical teams.

7. Neurosurgery Equipment Support:

- A discussion was held with Philips to explore options for providing neurosurgery gadgets and equipment to Nishtar.

8. PLAB Webinar Series:

- A PLAB webinar series has been arranged, which will help future students from Nishtar Medical College prepare for attachment in the UK and settle into their professional careers.

9. Social Bonding and Event:

- A musical night is scheduled for 19th October 2024 in London to improve social bonding within the community.
- Dr. Rizwan Qureshi and Dr. Nauman Ehsan will lead the committee responsible for securing sponsorships for the event.

10. Future Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held in Dublin, Ireland, on 14th September 2024.
- There will be an interaction with APPNE (Association of Pakistani Physicians of Northern Europe).

11. Constitutional Matters:

- Mr. Shahid Sahu, with the assistance of two barristers, led the discussion on the constitutional and charity organization structure. Key points discussed included:
 1. Clarification of EC/EB membership via election and nomination.
 2. Duration of EC/EB membership.
 3. Duration of trustee roles.
 4. Selection criteria for trustees.
 5. Trustee position, tenure, and liability.
 6. Whether the constitution should be circulated to all members for approval before the final meeting.

Acknowledgement:

- The meeting concluded after three hours. A complimentary lunch, generously provided by Mr. Bukhari at his residence, was highly appreciated by all attendees.

Meeting Adjourned: Time spent: 3 hours

Lunch Sponsor: Mr. Bukhari

Next Meeting: 14th September 2024, Dublin, Ireland.