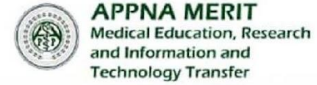


# APPNA MERIT HIV Awareness, Prevention, and Education Project in Pakistan



A Project of MERIT HIV Committee

HIV Webinar Series: Webinar #12

## Vision for HIV in Pakistan for 2022



Date & time: **Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:00 PM**  
Pakistan time (10:00 AM US Eastern Time)

### Moderators



**Dr. Saima Abbas MD**  
Infectious Disease Physician  
Space Coast Infectious Disease Care,  
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**Dr. Hammad Ali**  
MBBS MPH PhD  
Medical Epidemiologist, USA



**Dr. Fizza S. Gillani**  
Associate Professor of Medicine (Research)  
Alpert Medical School of Brown University  
Chair MERIT HIV Committee

### Host

### Panelists



**Dr. Nausheen Hamid**  
Parliamentary Secretary at Ministry  
of Health, Pakistan  
Member of parliament, National  
Assembly of Pakistan



**Dr. Ramesh Kumar**  
Deputy National Coordinator (HIV/AIDS)  
CMU, for HIV/AIDS,  
TB, Malaria, Global Fund Grant,  
Ministry of National Health Services,  
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**Dr. Khudadad Khan**  
ART Physician & Incharge  
HIV/ AIDS Care,  
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**Dr. Hina Jawaid**  
Assistant Professor in Family Medicine  
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**Dr Rajwal Khan**  
Strategic Information Adviser, UNAIDS



**Dr. Nashmia Mahmood**  
National Programme Specialist,  
Global Fund Grant HIV, UNDP



**Dr. Bushra Jamil**  
Professor, Agha Khan University,  
Karachi, Pakistan



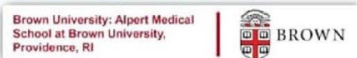
**Mr. Salman Qureshi**  
Senior Program Manager,  
Nai Zindagi



**Dr. Malik M. Umair**  
HIV Treatment Specialist,  
PR unit of Global Fund NACP  
(National AIDS Control Program)

In collaboration with

Registration Link: <http://bit.ly/merit-hiv>



Pakistan Society of Internal  
Medicine



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# **Webinar 12 – Vision for HIV in Pakistan in 2022 (Dec 19, 2021)**

## **Summary:**

### **Update to HIV Awareness, Prevention, and Education Project in Pakistan Project Report Published on World AIDS Day, December 1st, 2021**

- Treatment as Prevention, Key Performance indicators
  - 1) Percentage of people NEWLY DIAGNOSED with HIV who know their HIV status
  - 2) Percentage of people living with HIV who know their HIV status who are on Antiretroviral treatment
  - 3) Percentage of people living with HIV who are on ART and are VIROLOGICALLY SUPPRESSED
  - 4) Number of AIDS related deaths
- Knowledge, Attitude, Practice Gap
  - Pakistan has been registering 20 000 new HIV cases every year for the past few years
  - Transmission is no longer confined to the key populations which is really
  - Five out of seven outbreaks of HIV in Pakistan have occurred in children as well as men and women without traditional high-risk behaviors
  - General population is getting infected primarily because of the unregulated use of contaminated needles and syringes and the unscreened blood products
  - Progress: government has passed a legislation whereby only auto destruct syringes will be used for medical use
    - Trying to find ways to reduce our dependence on the foreign funding for control of diseases like TB, HIV and malaria
    - Introduction of universal health care whether screening
    - Marginalized populations may not be getting the care they deserve
    - Taking active steps toward facilitating key populations and transgenders
    - Planning to link key pops to health insurance programs to provide the stigma free care
  - Doctors need to be non-judgmental and maintain patient confidentiality at all times
  - The general population in Pakistan needs to accept that there is an issue regarding HIV, and it need to be talked about/steps need to be taken to solve it
  - Stigma is the single most cause of this lack of adherence to HIV management In Pakistan according to people working in the HIV field
    - Many patients to an HIV center are lost after the first visit, providers must work hard to create a comfortable environment for the patient
    - Patients may lose their job or family when they are diagnosed with HIV
    - Travel cost issue for those wanting to visit HIV center, should plan for HIV centers in every district

- Issues in Private and Public Sector
  - Retention issue: Patients leave
  - IV Drug Users: this population tends to not retain in treatment, stop therapy, transmit rapidly, and become treatment drug resistant due to delays
  - Mode of transition is given as unknown, but may really simply be omitted from report
  - Funding and expansion of treatment needs to be improved, especially in more remote areas
- Infection Prevention and Control
  - After the initial HIV outbreak, external teams came into Pakistan and took charge of training people and managing treatment activities
    - These practices were not internalized into Pakistan's structure
    - People have not fully adopting HIV prevention practices despite the money and time spent
    - Infection prevention funding was not including in HIV grant, but was in COVID grant which made a large difference