

Press Release

Ten of the brightest medical research students graduate at the Precision Medicine Lab

Peshawar, August 30, 2024 - Ten of the brightest medical students from across the country graduate as the 3rd batch of the 8-week summer elective programme at the Precision Medicine Lab in Peshawar.

The Precision Medicine Lab is one of the most advanced biomedical research laboratories funded by the Federal Government and jointly run by Rehman Medical Institute and CECOS University in Peshawar. The Lab is working on numerous clinical studies and research projects including the country's precision medicine pilot in cancer.

The Lab, under the visionary leadership of Dr. Faisal Khan, hosts an annual summer elective programme where medical school students undertake original research projects in the area of biomedicine and adjacent disciplines. Each Summer our Lab attracts some of the finest scientific talent from all over Pakistan to take part in an 8-week elective programme. This year's cohort included 10 remarkable medical undergraduates selected through a rigorous process from various esteemed institutions. These students brought fresh perspectives, innovative research ideas, and boundless energy, significantly contributing to the growing scientific culture to the city.

This year's graduation ceremony was held on Friday in the presence of parents, teachers, medical college principals, young students and members of the public. The graduating students included:

- Mahnoor Sheikh - Pakistan International Medical College, Peshawar
- Binyameen Raza Qureshi - Khyber Medical College, Peshawar
- Abdal Gohar Qureshi - Khyber Medical College, Peshawar
- Gul e Lala Nauman - Rehman Medical College, Peshawar
- Shayan Ahmad - Khyber Medical College, Peshawar
- Zara Khan - Khyber Girls Medical College, Peshawar
- Muskan Hayat - Khyber Medical College, Peshawar
- Malaika Khan - Khyber Medical College, Peshawar
- Quratulain - Rehman Medical College, Peshawar
- Talha Mufeed - Saidu Medical College, Swat

The graduation ceremony was graced by the presence of notable guests, including Prof Dr Mukhtiar Zaman, Principal, Rehman Medical College, Prof Dr Sher Muhammad Khan, Consultant Oncologist, Dr Taza Gul Director Science and Technology, Government of KP, Mr Amjad Arbab, Senior Advisor at the World Bank and other distinguished guests. Their presence highlighted the significance of this program in shaping the future of scientific research in Pakistan.

'As the Programme Lead for the summer elective, I am incredibly proud of the dedication and enthusiasm shown by our medical elective students. Over the past eight weeks, they have immersed themselves in science and research through lectures, sprints, and hands-on sessions, gaining skills that will help them shape their future contributions to healthcare' said Dr. Madina Shirdel, the Program Lead for this year's elective programme.

'It all boils down to the type of environment you provide to young fresh mind to unleash their true potential. We need to work on the culture in our Labs, Departments and Universities and Colleges. We need a culture of inquiry, curiosity, academic rigour and scientific excellence. This is very hard to establish and I am proud of all the graduating students to have contributed to our Lab', said Dr Faisal Khan, Director of the Precision Medicine Lab and, who is himself a graduate of the University of Oxford.

The event concluded with a note of encouragement from the chief guests, who lauded the efforts of the Precision Medicine Lab in fostering a culture of science, research and innovation among young minds in the country. The ceremony not only celebrated the achievements of these young researchers but also set the stage for future collaborations and advancements in the field of precision medicine.

The Summer Elective Programme at Precision Medicine Lab continues to be a cornerstone for fostering the next generation of scientific leaders. With each passing year, the programme not only strengthens the research capabilities of the lab but also plays a pivotal role in nurturing a vibrant scientific community in the region.