

Press Release

PML Celebrates the Graduation of its 5th Batch of Summer Interns

Peshawar, August 16, 2024 - Seven of the brightest high school students from across the country, graduated as the 5th batch of the highly competitive 6-week summer internship 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 the Dr. Faisal Khan, hosts an annual summer internship programme where high school students undertake original research project in the area of biomedicine and adjacent disciplines. Each year, the Lab attracts hundreds of applicants from dozens of cities across Pakistan, out of which select few are invited to join the cohort after a series of interviews and a selection conference. This year seven exceptional students were chosen to participate. Their projects came from exciting new areas such as biomaterials, artificial intelligence, cancer models, 3D bioprinting and protein semiconductors.

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

- Ayan Amjad, PakTurk Maarif, Peshawar
- Talha Khan, PakTurk Maarif, Peshawar
- Romaisa Malik, Peshawar Model Degree College for Girls, Peshawar
- Zaina Bakhtiyar, Peshawar Model Degree College for Girls, Peshawar
- Mahir Raza Qureshi, Cadet College Kohat
- Majid Shakoor, PakTurk Maarif, Lahore
- Ahmad Ali Abdullah, The City School, Sargodha

The graduation ceremony was graced by the presence of notable guests, including Mr. Shafique Ur Rehman, CEO of Rehman Medical Institute, Professor Shahzada Bakhtyar Zahid, Dean, Rehman Medical Institute, Madam Naheeda Begum Principal, Peshawar Model School Hayatabad Campus, Madam Shehribano Shoaib Head of HRDC PMEN, Salman Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Edwardes College, Peshawar, Sulaiman Faisal, Senior Lecturer, CECOS University and Zeeshan Khattak, Lecturer, Institute of Management Sciences and other distinguished guests. Their presence highlighted the significance of this program in shaping the future of scientific research in Pakistan.

'We are very proud of the brilliant learning experience our interns get, from lectures, sprints and hands-on sessions, to 1-to-1 mentorship on their capstone project' said Aqsa Hussain, the Program Lead for this year's internship programme.

"The whole idea is to give a real-world research experience to the brightest of our kids ahead of time. Students get to learn the scientific method, the challenges of undertaking a rigorous research project and also experience the wonders of discovery and achievements when things begin to work', said Dr Faisal Khan, Director of the Precision Medicine Lab and 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 PML 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.