

*Press Release*

## **Precision Medicine Lab takes on the stage at the World Economic Forum Meeting in Dubai**

*Peshawar, November 7, 2024* – Dr Faisal Khan took the stage at the Annual Meeting of the Global Future councils by the World Economic Forum in Dubai to share insights from Pakistan’s first Precision Medicine pilot, where he highlighted the transformative potential of precision medicine in shaping the future of healthcare and how the country intends to use it for its masses.

Precision Medicine is an emerging new way of diagnosing and treating diseases based on the patient’s genes, lifestyle and environment.

The Precision Medicine Lab in Peshawar leads the country’s first research pilot funded by the federal government in this cutting-edge new approach to medicine and is focusing on oral cancer which is the second largest cancer in the local population.

The session, titled “*Precisely Where Needed*”, explored the roles of technological advancements, scientific research, and multi-stakeholder collaboration in pushing the boundaries of health innovation.

‘It was an absolute honour to represent cutting-edge science happening in Pakistan on the global stage. This was home-grown, world-class science all happening right here thanks to the brilliant team of scientists and doctors, our clinical collaborators and our sponsors’ said Dr. Khan who has a masters and a doctorate from the University of Oxford and is the founder and director of the Precision Medicine Lab.

Dr Khan shared early lessons from Pakistan’s experience in undertaking precision medicine research and highlighted how the ‘National Centres’ spun out by the Planning Commission in Islamabad offered a replicable new model of enabling great scientific and technological research in countries like Pakistan. He emphasized that the future of healthcare lies in the ability to equitably harness cutting-edge technologies by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and by staying open to new ways of executing these ambitious programmes to benefit local populations.

Dr. Khan was joined by two distinguished experts, Megan Frisk, Director of International Affairs at ARPA-H from the US, and Robert Speight, Director of the CSIRO Advanced Engineering Biology Future Science Platform from Australia. Together, they engaged in an insightful discussion on how innovation and collaboration across borders and disciplines are essential to the future of precision medicine.

The Annual Meeting of the Global Future Councils this year brought together over 500 global experts across 30 thematic councils. These thought leaders, from sectors such as academia, business, government, and civil society, share insights and shape the dialogue around key global issues, including artificial intelligence, the green energy transition, and the future of healthcare. This year’s meeting is the second in-person

gathering for the 2023-2024 council term, offering members a unique opportunity to influence global policy and action.

Full Video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTFRGXEtD0>