

“Editorial”

COVID-19 has posed a great challenge to mankind not only in terms of economic, social and political implications but has also put the advancements of modern medicine to the test. This disease has perplexed medical researchers and has stymied health care providers from finding a solution to this deadly pandemic, which has caused loss of lives in the thousands and incapacitated the available health resources worldwide. These challenges to the survival of humanity have led to evolving strategies in economic, social and health care management. It has given us an opportunity to look into our medical cover, infrastructure and public health systems and to revamp them to emerging needs. Life is a process of constant evolution and change. The monotony and inertia of socioeconomic and political life over centuries required a change, which has now been made unavoidable due to the order of nature. Our healthcare systems concentrated on non-communicable diseases like heart disease, hypertension, diabetes and obesity which have enhanced the life span in developed countries. The communicable diseases like tuberculosis, malaria, dengue and other infectious diseases were a concern of third world countries and the same holds true for poverty and hunger. Such epidemics were unknown to rich countries of the western world and their response was always one of pity towards these nations, coupled with the occasional aid or loans to address disease epidemics and natural calamities like floods and earthquakes. It is after a long time, due to the corona virus, that the West has seen such difficult times. It is now that the world realizes what “going viral” truly means, and it is unfortunately a grim connotation. The disease now asks us to break the monotony prevailing over last few centuries and has given us an opportunity to revamp our socio-political life and review our health systems. The change is much required and this is simply the law of nature.

خدا تجھے کسی ٹوفن سے آشنا کر دے کہ تیرے بحری موجوں میں اضطرب نہیں

In order to deal with change, one must be prepared for any situation. Thus, we at FMU were ready to adapt in order to face this emerging crisis. Before COVID-19 knocked at our doors we were prepared to face it. The preparedness started in early February by arranging awareness and training seminars for healthcare workers of FMU and a training session by provincial Advisory group on Feb 12 - the day novel Corona was named as COVID-19. GGH GMAbad was declared as dedicated Corona facility. Structural, organizational changes according to international guidelines were implemented. The team under senior leadership, was comprised of pulmonologists, physicians and ICU consultants, who did a great job. Sampling of patients was a great ordeal. Nevertheless, ENT Department did a superb job, smartly and efficiently. Establishment of BSL 3 in 2 weeks' time was a great achievement by Pathology Department. ICU management and ventilator support was the toughest job in COVID-19 management. Anesthesia Department has emerged as a hero in this strife and have been frontline warriors saving many precious lives. In this arduous fight against Corona, Administration of Allied Hospital and Civil Hospital Faisalabad both have equally been involved by giving logistic and professional support in terms of human resource. Without vital help and coordination of Primary and Secondary Health Department of Punjab along with their district heads at Faisalabad, it would have not been possible. There were some unsung heroes who contributed commendably in collecting samples from homes, quarantine centres, hospitals, airports, hotels and where ever he was sent for this job.

Senior consultants, Young doctors, Nurses and Paramedics working in COVID-19 dedicated hospitals, Every hospital have equally contributed in this fight against Corona by staying on front lines and stood the test of time posed to medical profession. They have written their names in history through their steadfastness and dedication. The Civil and Military establishment did an excellent job in laying down the roadmap, supervising and keeping all activities in order and in a well-coordinated manner. It goes without saying the Pakistan Army as usual came to our rescue to fight this biological threat on war footing with their high energies.

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Simple Slogan, “**Prepare for the worst, Pray for the best and Fight till the end!**” was the power behind our success in minimizing the morbidity and mortality of COVID-19 and struggle for eradication of this pandemic in this region of Pakistan. Smart lockdown policy by the government of Pakistan was the turning point in limiting the spread of COVID-19 and saving the daily earnings of the people of Pakistan and consequently economy of the motherland, “Pakistan” This has been acknowledged and appreciated by the World Health Organization through its advice to rest of the world to get guidance from the Pakistani nation for a successful combat with the COVID-19.

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