



# News Letter

Oct - Dec 2005

Pakistan Society of Haematology

## From the desk of President PSH

I hope you have all received the July-Sept 2005 issue of the Newsletter. Dr. Nadir Ali has reshaped this document and given it a new haematological look. It appears to me to be a very balanced presentation, containing pertinent information as well as scientific review. The country at this moment in time is going through the most challenging phase since its creation by Allah Subhanaho. We need to do a lot of soul searching. Is there a lesson, a warning and a chance for us or is it purely a geological phenomena; each one of us has to decide this our self. The medical profession has risen above itself and has given a commendable impression to the nation about its dedications, skills and patriotism. Alongside the trauma management teams, the haematologists have played their part. Many of our younger energetic colleagues organized blood transfusion services in the effected areas. This goes hand in hand with all acute emergency & trauma plans. The natural response of this nation in the 'nations-hour-of need' is over whelming.



There is sudden surge of blood donors & mushrooming of voluntary organizations, willing to collect blood donations. The key to success of any such movement is organization. Unfortunately we are an impatient society; waves of enthusiasm surge and recede in unpredictable fashion. Like a driver holding a restive steed, we the transfusionist, have a daunting task, of keeping the services of blood transfusion organized and effective. Blood collection has to be dictated by storage capabilities and demand. The process of scrutinizing donors & weaning out high-risk behavior donors is extremely sensitive & needs careful handling. All donations must be screened as per recommendations and emergency compatibility testing should not be ignored. To be effective, the process must be safe & scientific. We should not allow our emotions to overcome our sense. Tendency to cut corners must be carefully monitored & discouraged. The message of "Safe blood transfusion" must accompany "blood donation start with me".

PSH salutes all doctors, especially the teams of haematologists & transfusionists who have proved their professionalism. May Allah guide us in our dedication & keep us under his umbrella – safe & healthy (Ameen) Dr. Khalid Zafar Hashmi

## Proceedings of seminar on safe blood transfusion services.

The Pakistan Society of Haematology organized a seminar on Safe blood transfusion on 17th September 2005. The seminar was chaired by the Sindh health secretary Professor Dr. Naushad Ahmed Sheikh.

The program began with the recitation of Holy Quran by Miss. Misbah (student DDLS), followed by an inaugural address of Dr. Khalid Zafar Hashmi (President PSH). He also gave a brief historical background of blood transfusion services in Pakistan. The seminar was addressed by National and provincial coordinators in the blood transfusion services as well as technical experts in this field.

The first presentation was delivered by Dr. Naila Rahman (SR Haematology, Liaquat National Hospital), on transfusion transmittable diseases followed by Dr. Hina Qureshi (Resident Haematology, Liaquat National Hospital), who highlighted the importance of detection of "Antibody to hepatitis B core antigen in donors non reactive for hepatitis B surface antigen". Dr. Birjees Mazhar Kazi (National coordinator, Blood transfusion services, N.I.H Islamabad) graced the symposium by delivering his speech on "Accreditation of Blood banks". He insisted on development of nationally coordinated well-organized blood transfusion authority. Dr. Farhana Memon (former program secretary: Sindh blood transfusion Authority) was also invited

to talk on responsibilities of sindh blood transfusion authority. Dr. Syed Abdul Mujeeb (In charge blood bank, JPMC) was the last presenter of the symposium who spoke on the safe blood transfusion services in sindh, provided by Government. He also mentioned the role of non-governmental organizations in order to develop a well-organized Blood transfusion authority.

There was a panel discussion at the end of presentations conducted by Dr. Farhat Abbas Bhatti (Consultant Haematologist PNS Shifa). The panelists who participated were Dr. Professor Naushad Ahmed Sheikh, Dr. Khalid Zafar Hashmi, Dr. Nadir Ali, Dr. Farhana Memon, Dr. Saba Jamal, Dr. Bushra Moiz, Dr. Sarfaraz Jaffery (Incharge Hussaini blood bank), Dr. Naseem Siddiqui (In charge Fatmid blood bank) & Dr. Syed Abdul Mujeeb. The symposium was concluded by closing remarks of the Chairman Professor Dr. Naushad Ahmed Sheikh. He highlighted the importance of safe and effective blood transfusion and focused attention on legislative aspects and accreditation of blood banks. He put emphasis on development of a website databank that would be approachable by all blood banks in order to exchange extra and near expiry blood bags with each other.

The vote of thanks was given by Dr. Nadir Ali to honorable chairman, guests and participants of the seminar. The lunch was served at the end of the symposium.





## Consensus report on leukaemia course 2005

Dr. Tahir Shamsi: On behalf of the participants of Leukemia Course 2005 Bismillah Taque Institute of Health Sciences & Blood Diseases Centre, Karachi.

Leukaemias are diverse and important group of malignancies. There has been tremendous development in the understanding its biology and treatment over last 10 years. Bismillah Taque Institute of Health Sciences & Blood Diseases Centre, Karachi in collaboration with Pakistan Society of Haematology organized a course on leukaemia diagnosis & management in August 2005. First two days focused on the diagnostic workup of patients with a suspected haematological malignancy. A total 47 haematologists, residents and clinical pathologists from all over the country participated in it. Dr Saba Jamal (Dr Ziauddin Hospital), Dr Tasneem Farzana (Bismillah Taque Institute), Dr Tariq Mahmood (Shaukat Khanum) and Brig Ayyub (AFIP) facilitated the activity. Major General Masood Anwar and Dr Khalid Zafar Hashmi supervised the course. Each participant was provided with a microscope and a set of 15 cases with brief clinical detail. In a given time, they were asked to go through the cases and note their findings and differential diagnosis. In the remaining one and a half day, facilitators discussed each case individually with the participants. Haemograms, peripheral blood films, bone marrow smears, trephine biopsy, cytochemistry, Immunohistochemistry and cytogenetics of all cases were discussed in a great length. The objectives of the course were to improve the diagnostic skills of haematologists and clinical pathologists working in district hospitals and smaller cities. At the end of 2nd day, participants felt that the objectives were fulfilled.

Third and fourth day of the course focused on the management of leukaemia. Leukaemia classification, Molecular Diagnosis, Gene Profiling, Imaging in diagnosis and follow-up, Different varieties of acute and chronic leukaemias in adult and paediatric patients, Treatment Modalities, Role of Fludarabine, Rituximab, Radio-Immunotoxin & other Monoclonal Antibodies and High Dose Therapy with Stem Cell Transplantation. The event provided

an excellent opportunity to refresh the knowledge of the practicing Haematologist / Oncologist and was a great learning experience for Haematologist / Oncologist in-training. Discussion on Problem Case Studies (tumour board) was the most exciting event during the proceedings. Cases with an exceptional educational value were selected for presentation. On the second day, one hour was allocated for CME / Clinical Problem Solving exercise. This course was designed to cover the standard of care for common and some important uncommon types of lymphomas. 56 oncologist / haematologists attended the meeting. 10 speakers from various cancer centers took part in it.

Leukaemia is among the first 10 most common tumours in Pakistan. Its incidence has risen in the last 22 years and more often is seen in younger patients as compared to Western population. Currently, WHO has proposed a classification acute and chronic leukaemia. Cytogenetics and immunophenotyping / immunohistochemistry should be included in the diagnostic work up of all cases of leukaemia. Childhood acute lymphoblastic leukaemia is curable in a vast majority of cases with standard chemotherapy. Bone Marrow Transplant should only be considered in second remission. Targeted therapy for acute promyelocytic leukaemia and chronic myeloid leukaemia with all-trans-retinoic acid and Imatinib respectively are being recommended as first line treatment and has opened the door for a possible cure. Myelodysplasia is increasingly seen in very young age in Pakistan. Proteasome inhibitor, thalidomide analogues and immunosuppressive therapy have proved useful in a significant group of patients.

Chronic Lymphocytic leukaemia / small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL / SLL) is one disease and slowly progressing in nature. Expression of CD38 and ZAP-70 carries a poor outcome. Based on its expression, early treatment can be offered to them if it is expressed. Fludarabine alone and in combination with cyclophosphamide is showing promising results in CLL / SLL and follicular lymphoma as first line therapy.

## Minutes of Executive Committee meeting

PSH Executive committee meeting was held at sunset club Karachi on 3rd Aug 2005. Meeting started at about 8 pm. Meeting was chaired by Dr. Khalid Zafar Hashmi, president PSH. Meeting started with recitation of Holy Quran by Dr. Farhat Abbas Bhatti.

### Meeting was attended by:

1. Maj Gen Masood Anwar President elect PSH
2. Dr. Tahir Shamsi member scientific committee Karachi Chapter
3. Dr Tariq Mahmood from Shoukat Khanum Cancer Hospital Lahore
4. Dr. Farhat Abbas Bhatti, member executive committee PSH
5. Dr. Luqman Butt member executive committee PSH from Quetta
6. Dr. Mahadev Harani member executive committee PSH Karachi

7. Dr. Fazle Raziq member executive committee PSH Peshawar

8. Dr. Nadir Ali Secretary and treasurer PSH

### Agenda points and decisions:

1. PSH Annual Conference in Quetta, sponsors and Contribution Decision: Tentative dates are April 28-30th 2006. Shering Pharma has offered to sponsor Gifts, bags, printing, and audio-visual support. President PSH and two members from Karachi Dr. Tahir Shamsi and Lt Col Nadir Ali will facilitate to find further sponsors. S. Ejazuddin, Novartis and Diagnostic association may be contacted in search of further sponsors.
2. Asia Pacific bone marrow transplantation Conference 2007. Venue, sponsors and contributions.

**Decision:** Gen Masood Anwar proposed PSH and Asia Pacific together at Rawalpindi. Brig Khalilullah commandant Armed Forces Bone Marrow Transplant was contacted on telephone





who agreed to host the Asia Pacific bone marrow transplant conference. A separate organizing sub committee was proposed and was agreed. The sub committee will comprise of Brig Khalilullah, Dr. Tahir Shamsi, Dr. Slaman N Adil, Brig Pervez and Dr. Irfan. Dr. Tahir Shamsi was nominated as coordinator and facilitator for Asia Pacific bone marrow transplant conference 2007.

3. Pediatric hematology symposia/workshop in Dec 2005. Venue, sponsors and contributions.

Decision: Dr. Nisar, Children Hospital Lahore will be offered to arrange. If it is not possible for him alternative venues can be Army Medical College Rawalpindi, and NICH Karachi.

4. Transfusion Medicine symposia/workshop in June 2006. Venue, sponsors and contributions.

Decision: Brig Mohammad Ayyub will arrange it at Armed Forces Institute of Transfusion Rawalpindi

5. Red cell disorders. symposia/workshop in Jan 2006. Venue, sponsors and contributions.

**Decision:** Dr Khalid Zafar Hashmi will arrange at Liaquat National Hospital, dates will be decided and communicated later on.

6. Other points:

Following points were discussed and agreed unanimously by all:

a. Replica workshops may be arranged in Faisalabad, Hyderabad and other cities if arrangements are possible.

b. Newsletter should be distributed to libraries of all medical colleges and teaching institutes.

c. Maj Gen Masood Anwar raised the point of CPD activities records accreditation from PSH and also by Royle College.

d. Dr. Mahadev suggested to contact PMDC to create appointments of hematologists in Sindh

e. Developing website PSH. Dr Khalid Zafar Hashmi offered to arrange sponsorship from Roche.

f. ISH members, renewal of membership and to offer conferences in future

## XXX world congress of international society of haematology(ish)

The 30th world congress of ISH was hosted by Turkish Society of Haematology in Istanbul from Sept 28th to Oct 2nd 2005. ISH has three divisions, European-African division & Asia Pacific division (ADP). Unfortunately very few PSH members have taken up the membership of ISH. This is a useful membership as it keeps you posted with the activities of ISH and offers you opportunities to attend the ISH divisional meetings as well as the world congress. The 31st congress will be hosted by the Inter American division & will be held on 9-12 August 2006 in Puerto Rico and the 32nd world congress of ISH will be in 2008 in Bangkok. PSH has the opportunity to host the APD-ISH 10th congress in 2006. However we need to increase our membership of ISH and start work immediately. These meetings have a certain standard, which reflects on the capabilities of the host society. We will have to perform well and create a positive impression of PSH.

At the 30th ISH congress in Istanbul more than 1200 participate from 72 countries had registered. The scientific program was very extensive and four simultaneous sessions were in progress. The educational session covered all major haematological topics including lymphomas, acute & chronic leukemia, myeloma, coagulation disorders, platelet disorders, stem cell therapy, transplantation, laboratory standardization, as well as haematology in developing countries. There were two sessions for nurses. In addition satellite symposia were arranged by pharmaceutical companies. The conference was very well organized and turned out to be a good learning experience. Istanbul is a very beautiful city; located on the junction of Asia and Europe; it offers the best of both continents. Muslims especially Pakistanis are very welcomed guests and one can feel at home in Turkey. PSH needs to explore all possibilities of improving ties with the Turkish Society of Haematology. We have much to gain from this relationship

## Letter to the editor:

I am thankful to the executive committee for having published my contribution on 'Quality assurance of viral marker testing in blood bank' which appeared in the newsletter of July - Sep 2005. However I wish to point out that some typing/printing mistake has led to omission of certain paras which has confused the readers. The written content appears to lack continuity due to misplaced text. Please read the same contribution by seeing the following summary/ correction, along with a very important chart which was meant to enhance understanding. The text was originally organized under following headings:

1. Section of viral screening assays (Kits)

a. Provision of background information of principal source, distributors and products.

b. Evaluation of different parameters.

c. Material needed for evaluation of kit performance

parameters. (Ref to Chart No 1)

d. Publication of assessment results.

e. Selection of assay.

2. Quality control of viral screening in Blood Bank.

a. Internal controls

b. External controls

c. Invalidation of results.

d. External quality assurance schemes.

e. Quality control procedures after changes of batch of kit.

f. Donor population data.

g. Disease surveillance data.

I hope that this brief outline will put things in right perspective.

I shall be more than pleased to receive your E. mail for further clarification, Dr Nuzhat Salamat Haematologist CMH Multan

e. mail nuzhatsalamat@yahoo.com



## Chart -1: products by application

Select the Best Product for Your Application or Need

	Serological Control	MIT control	Solutions Software	Qualification Panels	Verification Panels	Sensitivity & Linearity Panels	Performance panels	Serocommission panels	Cultured Virus and Acetyping	Basematix Diluent
<b>METHOD VALIDATION</b>										
Evaluate antibody test sensitivity						1	2	1		
Evaluate antigen test sensitivity						1	2	2		
Evaluate nucleic Acid test sensitivity						1	2	1		
Evaluate test specificity							1	2	1	
Evaluate test specificity	1		1	3		3	3	3		
Evaluate test Nucleic Acid test precision		1	1	3		3	3	3	3	
Evaluate test linearity						1	2		2	2
<b>COMPLIANCE</b>										
Document training	2	2		1	1	3	3	3	3	
Document competency	2	2		1	1	3	3	3	3	
Document regulatory Compliance	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	2	
<b>DAILY QC</b>										
Perform lot acceptance	2	2		1	1	3	3	3		
Troubleshoot	2	2		1	1	3	3	3		
Dilute specimens										2
Perform daily run Control	1	1	1							
Analyze QC data			1							
Perform inter-site comparison			1	2	1	1	1	1		
Monitor for Nucleic Acid Test contamination		1	1	2						
Monitor test precision	1	1	1							

Key:

1. Best choice 2. Can be used, but other product may work better 3. Can be used, but other product may be more cost-effective.

## Forthcoming events

1. **PSH pediatric conference** Feb 2006. Contact: Dr Nisar Ahmed, Consultant Hematologist, Head of hematology & Transfusion Medicine Division The Children's Hospital and The Institute of Child Health Ferozpur Road Lahore. Phone 9230901-23 ext 4011, 2206, 3116. Mobile 03004330196.
2. **PSH annual Conference** 28-30 April 2006 at Bolan Medical College Quetta. Contact: Dr. Muhammad Luqman Butt, Consultant Hematologist. "The Lab" Opposite Civil Hospital

## About PSH

Pakistan Society of Hematology (PSH) is a non political, non – sectarian Govt registered organization consisting of hematologists of Pakistan. PSH promotes the advancement of hematology including transfusion medicine, through encouragement of research, improvement of teaching & technical methods,

## Dear friends

We request you to join us in newsletter by sending your comments, short communications, case reports, issues of national interest, new developments in your departments, and scientific activities

## Change in address

Many of the addresses and phone numbers with us are changed. We are in process of updating the contacts for better

## Correspondence

Dr. Khalid Zafar Hashmi, Department of Hematology Liaquat National Hospital, Stadium Road Karachi.

- Natha Singh Street Quetta. Phone: 03337805117
3. **31st World Congress of the International Society of Hematology:** The ISH is pleased to invite you to the 31st ISH Congress being held August 9-12 2006 San Juan, Puerto Rico. More than 2000 participants are expected. For further information, up-to date program and to submit abstracts please visit [www.ish2006.org](http://www.ish2006.org)
  4. **Red Cell disorders symposia/ workshop** at Liaquat National hospital 3rd week of Jan 2006. Contact: Dr. Khalid Zafar Hashmi 021 4939612 Ext. 2371.

organization of scientific meetings, publication of scientific material, and is affiliated with other National & International organizations. PSH also provides forum for the persons practicing hematology and transfusion medicine to discuss problems and to formulate agreed view points at National and International forum.

in your institutes. Your contribution is the back bone of this newsletter. Please do not forget to send one electronic copy on floppy disk in addition to paper copy. It is further requested that report/write up should be brief and concise.

communication. If your address has been changed after membership please send us your present mailing address e. mail and phone contact.

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E mail: [nmjrm@hotmail.com](mailto:nmjrm@hotmail.com)

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