

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Association of Pakistani Physicians Northern Europe

AHK/DS/President's Report
3rd February 2025
TO ALL MEMBERS

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President: Mr Amir Khan
General Secretary: Dr Nadeem Sajjad Raja
Joint Secretary: Dr Sohail Qureshi
Finance Secretary: Dr Aisha Sharif
Social Secretary: Dr Kamila Haider

Executive Members

1. Dr Samreen Muzaffar
2. Dr Wajiha Tehniyat
3. Dr Habib Haider
4. Dr Aadil Karim
5. Dr Mukesh Kumar
6. Dr Muhammad Imran
7. Mr Mazhar Sheikh
8. Mr Naseem Waraich
9. Dr Zafar Iqbal
10. Dr Amara Sohail

Trustees

Dr. Ayaz Abbasi
Mr. Umar Daraz Khan
Dr. Shahabullah Qureshi



Dear Esteemed Members,

It is with great honour that I present this report, reflecting on APPNE's progress and achievements over the last two years. APPNE has made significant strides over the past six years as a young and dynamic organisation.

My predecessors, Dr Amir Burney and Dr Irfan Akhtar, laid firm foundations upon which my cabinet has worked diligently to build. As we conclude our tenure, I take immense pride in APPNE's continued growth and remain confident that future cabinets will uphold and expand upon this legacy.

APPNE is the democratic voice of Pakistani doctors in Northern Europe. Our strength lies in unity—One Community, One Voice. I want to summarise our achievements and accomplishments over the past two years:

1. Growth in Membership:

Our efforts to expand APPNE's outreach have resulted in remarkable membership growth. We welcomed many new members, providing them with career guidance and job support. Since March 2023, our membership has grown from 1,600 to over 3,000. At the time of this report, APPNE has 3,068 members, including 1,417 paid and eligible voters, a substantial increase from the 911 voters recorded during the 2022/23 elections. This growth is a testament to APPNE's value and impact within the medical community.

2. Educational Activities:

- Online Seminars: Several successful online seminars provided members access to cutting-edge medical knowledge and practices.
- Annual Function Poster Presentations: Our function featured poster presentations by junior doctors, fostering research and academic engagement.
- Multi-Specialty Hybrid Educational Meetings: We especially emphasised the importance of knowledge share between and amongst the British Pakistani and Pakistani doctors, utilising the online educational platforms. Local doctors and speciality teams from Pakistan held and attended two multi-speciality hybrid meetings, facilitating knowledge exchange and collaboration. We held two highly professional and well attended CME sessions in Walsall Education Centre. I am delighted to report that several of our educational activities attained the CME status from several professional colleges.

3. Collaboration with Regulatory Bodies:

- Engagement with GMC and NHSE: APPNE actively engaged with the General Medical Council (GMC) and NHS England (NHSE) to advocate for members and ensure adherence to regulatory standards.
- Equality and Diversity Advocacy: We participated in forums addressing equality and diversity, striving for an inclusive and fair healthcare system.
- APPNE has launched a specialised initiative, gaining support from other doctors' associations, to organize seminars addressing workforce challenges in the NHS. This forum will collaborate with professional organisations to present a united front in tackling key and sensitive issues, particularly concerning GMC referrals of BAME doctors.

4. Support for Doctors in Difficulty:

- APPNE provided guidance and assistance to numerous Pakistani doctors facing challenges, ensuring they received the support necessary for career progression and GMC referral process. We helped doctors raise funds to fight their cases in MPTS.

5. Establishment of Advisory Board:

- An advisory board, led by former President Dr Irfan Akhtar, was established to spearhead APPNE's initiatives in supporting doctors facing challenges

6. **Confidential Support Email:**
 - We introduced a confidential email service (advice@appne.uk) to offer discreet assistance, ensuring doctors could confidently seek guidance.
7. **Advocacy for BAME Doctors:**
 - APPNE successfully united various BAME doctors' representative bodies to address NHS disparities. A committee is being formed to tackle these challenges effectively.
8. **Support for Fresh and International Medical Graduates (IMGs) Coaching and Mentorship:**
 - An MOU with Medestra was signed to offer discounted preparatory courses for IMGs, aiding their integration into the UK healthcare system.
 - Guidance for New Doctors: APPNE provided structured career support and advice for new doctors.
 - Junior Doctors Forum: A dedicated forum was established, and collaboration with the Pakistan Medical Students' Association (PAMSA) was strengthened to support medical students and junior doctors.
9. **Strengthening Organisational Governance:**
 - Policy Development: Policymaking and Governance
 - Organisational policy on social media use, disciplinary procedures, and election codes of conduct were implemented.
 - Streamlined Communication: Official email addresses were assigned to all postholders to ensure smooth transitions and effective communication.
 - Professional Website: A new website was launched, enhancing our digital presence and accessibility.
10. **Sports Events:**
 - Several sports events were organised, notably initiatives led by APPNE women that fostered organisation cohesion and family engagement. APPNE won the cricket trophy in tournament with BAPIO. Usman captained the team.
11. **Political and Social Advocacy:**
 - APPNE played an active role in raising awareness about human rights violations and the ongoing genocide in Gaza by collaborating with human rights organisations, Islamic groups, and the Pakistani diaspora. Through these partnerships, APPNE engaged in advocacy efforts, facilitated discussions, and supported initiatives aimed at highlighting the humanitarian crisis and seeking justice for affected communities. APPNE is proud to share that, through our fundraising campaign, we have successfully raised over £50,000 to support charitable projects providing aid to Palestinians in Gaza.
 - We held television discussions and public engagements highlighting the impact on the medical community and humanity.
 - APPNE strongly condemned acts of violence against Pakistanis in Southport and took a firm stance against extremist narratives falsely associating Pakistanis with grooming gangs

12. **Social and Cultural Events:**

- Multiple regional get-togethers were hosted, including Eid, Diwali, kite festival and Christmas celebrations.
- Two large-scale annual events occurred at ICC Birmingham, featuring renowned Pakistani artists Ali Azmat and Ali Zafar.
- These events saw record attendance and were among the most successful social gatherings hosted by any ethnic professional medical association.

13. **Charitable Contributions:**

- Although APPNE has not yet achieved charity organisation status due to governmental policy complexities, our member organisation's giving remained strong. We partnered with Human Appeal, a globally renowned charity, and organised fundraising events to support humanitarian causes. This part of the organisation will continue for the next two years.

14. **Partnership with other organisations:**

We partnered with an organisation that provided support to our members on pension, medical indemnity and financial issues free of cost.

At the end, I am satisfied that, during the tenure of the outgoing executive council, APPNE remained dedicated to professional development, collaboration, and excellence in healthcare. Our journey over the last two years has been marked by growth, advocacy, and unity. As we transition leadership, I thank our members and urge you to continue supporting APPNE's mission.

I believe that organisations are not run by a single individual, even if they hold the title of President. In collaboration with my colleagues, we introduced the concept of the "Trio" – comprising the President, General Secretary, and Joint Secretary – to establish a dedicated WhatsApp hotline for discussing critical matters and fostering a more consultative decision-making process.

This Tri-forum proved to be highly effective, enabling us to distil collective wisdom through thorough consultation and a rigorous vetting process. It allowed for more structured and insightful discussions before presenting matters to the Cabinet and Executive Council. The approach ensured a seamless, swift, and productive decision-making process, enhancing our ability to tackle challenges efficiently. I strongly recommend that the next President and Cabinet give serious consideration to this forum and utilise it to its full potential for effective decision-making and collaboration.

I am also deeply grateful to my colleagues in the cabinet and the Executive members for their unwavering dedication and relentless efforts over the past two years. Their selfless commitment, tireless work, and remarkable passion have been instrumental in elevating the esteem of APPNE and achieving numerous significant milestones.

Warm regards,
Mr. Amir Khan
President

Association of Pakistani Physicians of Northern Europe (APPNE)