

Program

Local Time	Topic	Speakers
8:15 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration	
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	Opening Remarks Introduction to Pakistani Society of Medical Genetics and Genomics	Dr. Syed Ajaz Ahmed Aisha Furqan, MS, CGC Myla Ashfaq, MS, CGC
9:30 AM – 10:15 AM	Introduction to Medical Genetics (Keynote Address)	Dr. Salman Kirmani
10:15 AM – 11:00 AM	Introduction to Genetic Counseling	Fizza Akbar, MS
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Stretch Break	
11:15 AM – 11:45 PM	Prenatal Genetics	Ambreen Khan, MS, CGC
11:45 AM – 12:15 PM	Population Genetics	Dr. Saqib Mahmood
12:15 PM – 12:30 PM	Q & A for Prenatal and Population Genetics Talks	
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch/Prayer/Posters	
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Clinical Genetics	Dr. Syed Ajaz Ahmed
2:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Cancer Genetics	Dr. Usman Rashid and Fatima Amir, MS, CGC
2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Q & A for Clinical and Cancer Genetics Talks	
2:45 PM – 3:30 PM	Laboratory Genetics	Dr. Rizwan Naeem
3:30 PM – 3:45 PM	Stretch Break	
3:45 PM – 4:15 PM	Two 15-minute Platform Presentations	To Be Determined
4:15 PM – 4:45 PM	Panel Discussion: Educational Opportunities and Future Directions – Status of Clinical Genetics Training in Pakistan	To Be Determined
4:45 PM – 5:00 PM	Closing Remarks	

Speakers

[Dr. Syed Ajaz Ahmed](#) is a graduate of Dow Medical College. He is a partner physician at Kaiser Permanente and is on the faculty at the University of California, Riverside. He has Board Certifications in Pathology, Clinical Genetics, and Molecular Genetics Pathology. He is one of the founding members of the Pakistani Society of Medical Genetics and Genomics. He volunteers his time at the telehealth genetics clinics at the National Institute of Child Health (NICH) and South City Hospital in Karachi.

[Aisha Furqan, MS, CGC](#), works as an oncology Genetic Counselor at Stanford Health Care in Palo Alto, California. She has a Masters in Genetic Counseling from Stanislaus State University and is certified by the American Board of Genetic Counselors. She has over eight years of experience working in oncology clinics and laboratories. She is also passionate about ethics and taught a course on ethics in genetic counseling at the UCSD extension program. She is one of the founding members of the Pakistani Society of Medical Genetics and Genomics and volunteers her time at the telehealth genetics clinics at the NICH and South City Hospital in Karachi.

[Myla Ashfaq, MS, CGC](#), is a Genetic Counselor and Assistant Professor at the McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas in Houston. She received her Bachelor in Genetics from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Masters in Human Genetics and Genetic Counseling from Stanford University. As a senior genetic counselor, Myla is involved in the various pediatric and adult genetic clinics. She is one of the founding members of the Pakistani Society of Medical Genetics and Genomics.

[Dr. Salman Kirmani](#) is US Board Certified in Pediatrics, Pediatric Endocrinology & Medical Genetics. He graduated from Dow Medical College and went on to train and work as faculty at the Mayo Clinic before returning to Pakistan. He is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Division of Women & Child Health at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. He has forged collaborations to improve access to diagnostic, therapeutic, and preventative interventions for patients and families with genetic disorders, and build local capacity by training students, residents and fellows, and genetic counselors.

[Fizza Akbar, MSc](#), is a genetic counselor and a senior instructor at the Aga Khan University, Karachi. Her work is centered around clinical genetic counseling services and research across prenatal, pediatric, and adult settings, with a particular focus on oncology genetics. Her area of interest is to understand the genetic architecture of rare Mendelian disorders in the multi-ethnic Pakistani population and to advocate for the integration of genomics into mainstream medical practice. She has a Master's in Genomic Medicine from The University of Manchester and PGT certification in Genomic Counseling and Variant Interpretation from the University of British Columbia.

[Ambreen Khan, MS, CGC](#), is a licensed, board-certified genetic counselor and worked as an oncology genetic counselor at Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) in Salt Lake City, UT. She also worked as a clinical supervisor and lecturer for the University of Utah Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling. Her research focuses on increasing access to genetic counseling and genetic testing with a focus on public health and health equity. She volunteers her time at the telehealth genetics clinics at the NICH and South City Hospital in Karachi.

[Dr. Saqib Mahmood \(MBBS, M.Sc., Ph.D.\)](#) has recently retired as a tenured Professor of Human Genetics and Molecular Biology from the University of Health Sciences Lahore-Pakistan. Currently, he is the Dean of the Faculty of Allied Health Sciences & Nursing at Nur-Fatima System/Nur International University Lahore. His 36 years of experience encompasses teaching, research, and molecular diagnostic roles. His scholarly pursuits have yielded substantial outcomes, as evidenced by his publications in internationally renowned journals with a total impact factor of 153.031. Moreover, his clinical commitment extends to providing genetic counseling services to families affected by genetic disorders. His contributions have been recognized through successful grant acquisitions from funding bodies such as the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan, the Pakistan Science Foundation, and the Punjab Higher Education Commission.

[Dr. Muhammad Usman Rashid \(MBBS, PhD, FRCPath, UICC Fellow\)](#) is a distinguished Senior Research Scientist and Head of the Basic Sciences Research Department at SKMCH&RC, with over 20 years of expertise in Precision Medicine, Cancer Genetics, and Oncology Research. An alumnus of the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), he established the first Cancer Genetics Research Lab in Pakistan and has >80 research papers published in top-tier journals. Dr. Rashid is recognized internationally, representing Pakistan in three Breast Cancer Consortia, and has received prestigious awards, including the German Cancer Research Center Guest Scientist Fellowship, the European Young Investigator's Award, and the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)-WHO Fellowship.

[Fatima Amir, MS, CGC](#), is a certified and licensed genetic counselor who graduated from the University of Cincinnati and Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Genetic Counseling Program in 2018. Fatima currently works at Ambry Genetics Laboratory as a lab genetic counselor. Previously, she worked as a cancer genetic counselor at Genome Medical, a telegenetics company that offers genetic counseling services across the United States. She is passionate about expanding access to genetic services to underserved populations around the world.

[Dr. Rizwan Naeem](#) is a Professor of Pathology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and serves as a founding Program Director for the Laboratory Genetics fellowship program. He is a graduate of Sindh Medical College and Executive Director of Sindh Medical College Alumni. Currently, he is serving as a president-elect for the counsel of program directors at the Association of Molecular Pathologists.