



BIPS NEWS



A Quarterly Newsletter of
Baqai Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences

"What we think, we become" - Buddha

BIPS: 25 Years of Quality Education



The first private sector pharmacy institute of Pakistan has entered into its 25th year. A citadel of learning, intellectual development and higher education. May the ALMIGHTY shower his countless blessings to this institute and the university in the coming years.

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences (FPS) was formed according to the charter of Baqai Medical University in June 1996. Under the umbrella of FPS, Baqai Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (BIPS) was established. It was the first Pharmacy institution in the private sector in Karachi, preferably the first in the country. Initially, BIPS was started in two lecture rooms in 1996 which has now expanded into two buildings with five lecture halls, eleven labs, a seminar library and an auditorium with a capacity of around 180.

BMU Acquired License of Microsoft TEAMS for Online Teaching

The closure of universities across the country due to the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the start of online teaching to not only save the academic calendar but also the precious time of the students. BMU in this regard has acquired the license of MS Teams for online teaching through HEC. The subscription to PERN has already been active for the university for past few years. The university has made a tremendous effort in making things ready for online teaching in a very short period. The undergraduate online classes for various constituent institutions of BMU including BIPS started from 1st June 2020. Prior to the start of the online classes, the IT department of BMU conducted multiple training sessions on the use of MS Teams for all the faculty members of BMU and also for the students. The university met all the basic and necessary legal requirements before starting the online teaching and approved each step through a proper channel such as the formation of the E-Learning Committee, Online Academic Council (OAC), E-Postgraduate Committee (E-PG), Online BASR (OBASR), etc. The classes for the postgraduate programs will start from 1st July 2020.

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E-Academic Board of BIPS

The E-Academic Board of BIPS has been constituted with the approval of the Online Academic Council (OAC) given on 13th May 2020. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Sheraz (Director, BIPS) is the Chairman of the board and Dr. Zubair Anwar is the Secretary. Other members include Prof. Dr. Sofia Ahmed (Dean & Chair, Department of Pharmaceutics), Prof. Dr. Shaukat Khalid (Chair, Department of Pharmacognosy), Prof. Dr. Rehana Perveen (Chair, Department of Pharmacology), Dr. Tania Mirza (Chair, Department of Pharm. Chemistry). Prof. Dr. Syed Fazal Hussain and Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad are the co-opted members. The purpose of the board is to approve the courses for online teaching, allocate different tasks to the departments, evaluate their performance and ensure that all the policies and guidelines are executed properly.

BIPS Constituted E-Learning Coordination Committee

An E-Learning Coordination Committee (ELCC) of BIPS has been constituted by the Director of the institute. Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Sheraz (Director, BIPS) is the Chairman of the committee. Other members include Ms. Aisha Noreen (Secretary), Mr. Arshad Jamal (Student Advisor), Dr. Rana Asif, Dr. Sadia Hafeez Kazi, Dr. Sadia Ahmed Zuberi, Dr. Muzammil Hussain and Dr. Muhammad Ahsan Ejaz. The purpose of the committee is to facilitate the teachers and students for online teaching and provide assistance to faculty members in the Learning Management System (LMS).

DME Arranged a Workshop on ‘Effective Online Teaching’

A 5-days workshop on “Effective Online Teaching” by the Department of Medical Education, BMU was conducted from 18th to 22nd, May 2020 for the faculty members of different institutes and colleges of BMU. The trainers of the online workshop were Dr. Shams Nadeem Alam (Director, DME) and Dr. Ahsan Sethi (Consultant Medical Educationist, Asst. Professor adjunct DME). Different tools and techniques were demonstrated by the trainers to the faculty members to create awareness on how to make online teaching more effective, such as the use of flip classroom methodology, team-based learning, Bloom’s taxonomy, preparation of study guides and lesson plans, use of Socrative or Kahoot techniques for assessment, BOPPPS plan, etc. The online workshop was very informative and enabled the faculty to learn various methods to make their online teaching more interactive and effective.

BIPS Conducted Dry Run of LMS for Faculty and Students

A dry run for the faculty members of BIPS was arranged on 27th May 2020 for practice and evaluation of the LMS. The Director, BIPS assigned different tasks during the dry run to assess the competence of each faculty member for using the LMS. The faculty responded with full zeal and a very productive session concluded after 9 hours of practice.

The dry run for the students was performed batch-wise on 28th and 29th May 2020. The ELCC members conducted the practice sessions and educated the students about various important matters including the Code of Conduct for online learning, downloading of lectures/learning materials, etc.

BMU Purchased Remote Access of EBSCO Host

BMU has purchased the remote access of Elton B. Stephens Company (EBSCO) Host. This will facilitate the faculty and students, who can now access hundreds of research journals and scientific magazines from home. This service was previously available on the campus but now due to the current lockdown situation, the university has taken an initiative by providing remote access. In addition, the development of a VPN (virtual private network) is also under progress by the IT department of the university, which will provide remote access to the HEC digital library as well as the university’s own library.

HEC Acknowledged the Online Readiness of the University

The readiness and quality of online teaching were assessed by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) of Pakistan. The result of online teaching readiness by HEC, released on 16th June 2020, marked BMU 1st among medical universities in Sindh with a score of 93.75% and overall 26th among all other universities of Pakistan. The team of BIPS News wishes heartiest congratulations to BMU and all its constituent institutions for a wonderful effort in such a short time.

Financial Assistance/Scholarships Awarded to Pharmacy Students

A financial assistance meeting was held on 25th June 2020 for the second to fifth year students of Pharm. D. Every year financial assistance / merit scholarships are provided to several students throughout the university with kind support from the Chancellor. There is no fixed number of students for the award and the students who apply are awarded on need-cum-merit basis after a thorough scrutiny of the documents by the Student Affairs Department. This year, keeping in mind the current economical situation of the country, the committee generously awarded financial assistance and scholarships to the students who submitted complete documents with proofs. The financial assistance committee is chaired by Prof. Dr. Syed Fazal Hussain (Director, ORIC) and assisted by Dr. Yasmeen Badar (Director, Student Affairs), Prof. Dr. Sofia Ahmed (Dean, FPS) and Prof. Dr. Muhammad Ali Sheraz (Director, BIPS).

Dr. M. Amir Qidwai (A Baqai Alumnus) Becomes the First Pakistani to get Certified for the National Board of Medication Therapy Management Specialist

Dr. Muhammad Amir Qidwai, a BIPS graduate of 2004, Batch 5, has become the first Pakistani to receive the certification from the National Board of Medication Therapy Management. A Board-Certified



Medication Therapy Management Specialist (BCMTMS) is a pharmacist who has great expertise in medication therapy management and provides the highest level of patient safety.

Dr. Amir has more than 10 years of experience in providing medication services. He has worked with well-recognized national and international hospitals in UAE and Aga Khan University Hospital in Pakistan. He has acquired licenses as a Clinical Pharmacist from Dubai Health Authority and as a Specialist-A from the Ministry of Health, UAE. He also has previous experience in teaching at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Hamdard University. He has earned his degrees from world-renowned universities including Harvard University (USA) and the University of Sunderland (UK).

Baqai Dental College Arranged a Webinar on 'Online Assessment'

The Department of Medical Education in collaboration with Baqai Dental College has taken an initiative to arrange a series of webinars in which professionals from across the country will participate. The first webinar of this series on the topic of "Online Assessment" was held on 18th June 2020. Renowned medical educationists from all over Pakistan attended the webinar and discussed the voids of the online assessment. They also pointed out towards different approaches to improve the system and rectify the ignorance of faculty members in online teaching.

New Instruments Installed at BIPS

BIPS has purchased few instruments in the past few months that have been installed in its labs.



Viscometer
(Lamy, France)



Laminar Flow Hood
(Biobase, China)



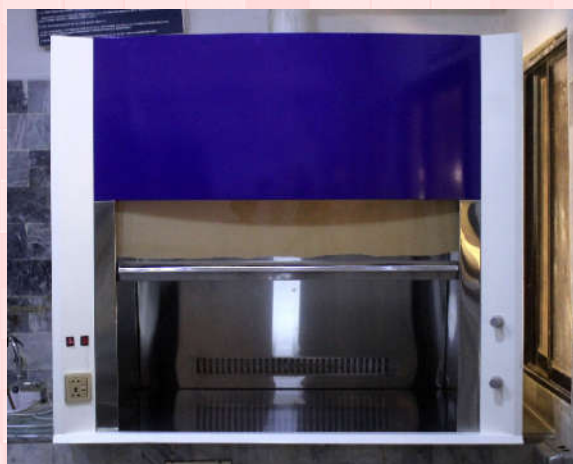
Double RO + Deionizer
(PCSIR, Pakistan)



Moisture Analyzer
(Radwag, Poland)



Tap Density Tester
(Galvano Scientific, Pakistan)



Fumehood
(Technocratic Services, Pakistan)



Laminar Flow Hood
(Technocratic Services, Pakistan)



Microscope
(Shenzhen Inskam Technology Co. Ltd., China)



Multistage Magnetic Stirrer with Hotplate
(Galvano Scientific, Pakistan)

Paper Published

1. Saira Jamshed, Farah Khan, Amna Begum, Beena Barkat Ali, Zuneera Akram, Madiha Ariff. Frequency of low birth weight and its relationship with maternal nutritional and dietary factors: A cross-sectional study. Cureus 2020;12(6): e8731.