

EDITORIAL

21ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON STATISTICAL SCIENCES

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The Office of Research, Innovation, and Commercialization (ORIC) at Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS), in collaboration with Baqai Medical University (BMU), successfully hosted the 21st International Conference on Statistical Sciences. The three-day conference, held from December 9-11, 2024, brought together well-known experts, researchers, and students from around the world to talk about the theme "Mobilizing Data Science & Big Data to Achieve SDGs."

The inauguration ceremony, held at the Dr. Abdul Qadeer Hall, DIMC, DUHS on December 9, 2024, was graced by the chief guest, Dr. Syed M. Tariq Rafi, Chairman of the Sindh Higher Education Commission. Other distinguished guests of honor included Prof. Dr. Nusrat Shah, Vice Chancellor of the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Medical University (SMBBSU), and patrons in chief Prof. Dr. Mohammad Saeed Quraishy, Vice Chancellors of DUHS and Prof. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmed Siddiqui, Vice Chancellor, Baqai Medical University. The chairmen of the conference, Prof. Dr. Nazeer Khan and Prof. Kashif Shafique, and the Secretary, Dr. Abdur Rasheed.

The conference featured six international guest speakers and seven national guest speakers, who delivered invited talks on various aspects of statistical sciences. The international keynote speakers included:

Dr. Shahjahan Khan (Bangladesh), presented a keynote speech on "Statistical Models in Meta-Analysis with Applications in Health Sciences." Dr. Khan's talk focused on the importance of meta-analysis in health sciences, highlighting its applications in combining results from multiple studies to draw more robust conclusions. He also discussed various statistical models used in meta-analysis, including fixed-effect and random-effects models.

Dr. Syed Ejaz Ahmed (Canada), delivered a keynote speech on "Machine Learning and Statistical Strategies in High-dimensional Data Analysis." Dr. Ahmed's talk emphasized the challenges and opportunities of analyzing high-dimensional data, which is common in many fields, including genomics, proteomics, and imaging. He discussed various machine learning and statistical strategies for handling high-dimensional data, including dimensionality reduction, feature selection, and regularization techniques.

Over 100 abstracts were accepted for oral presentations, and participants from all over Pakistan attended the conference.

In addition to the conference, 11 pre-conference workshops were also organized at seven different affiliated universities and institutes, where more than 200 faculty members, students, and researchers participated.

The conference was a resounding success, providing a platform for researchers and experts to share their knowledge and ideas on the application of statistical sciences in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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Ethics

- i) When reporting experiments on human subjects, indicate whether the procedures followed were in accordance with the ethical standards of the responsible committee on human experimentation (institutional or regional) or with the Helsinki Declaration of 1975, as revised in 1983.
- ii) Detailed descriptions or photographs of individual patients, whether of the whole body or of body sections (including physiognomies), are sometimes central to medical journal articles. The use of such material may lead to disclosure of the patient's identity, sometimes even indirectly, through a combination of seemingly innocent information.
- iii) Patients (and their relatives) have a right to anonymity in published clinical documentation. Details that might identify patients should be avoided unless essential for scientific purposes. Masking the eye region in patients' photographs may be inadequate protection against anonymity.